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Pathfinders of America

Pathfinders of America
"human engineers"

Detroit, Mich.

[1923]

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404 HODGES BUILDING
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

J. F. WRIGHT

Founder, Executive Secretary and Leader

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PATHFINDER HISTORY

Love, Labor and Live—these are three essentials in a philosophy developed by the Pathfinders of America, an organization which started as a Sunday school class the first Sunday in September, 1914, in a church house attic.

In that attic four young men met with Mr. J. F. Wright, as their teacher, to study Practical Human Constructive Psychology, together with the Law of Compensation, or Cause and Effect, as those principles might be applied in the building of Character—"HUMAN ENGINEERING."

Two months later a Detroit newspaper mentioned that a local Sunday school class was studying Character Building. A copy of the paper reached a young man in a Montana prison, serving 15 years—his fourth term. When he read the paper he said to himself:

"Character! Why, if I had character, I would not be here!" And he at once wrote asking if he might study with the class by correspondence.

By January next, men in eight different prisons had made application to study with the class. They then organized as the Pathfinders of America. By June, however, the men discovered that as a Sunday school class their membership would be limited to the young men of one denomination. Moreover, when Michigan prison correspondents were released on parole to Detroit, where they might attend the class in person, a social question was raised by the adult members of the church that was not only embarrassing, but of no mutual advantage to the Pathfinders or the former prisoners; so the class voted unanimously to sever their connection with the church.

The next Sunday they met in Palmer Park for their lesson, and for the rest of the season met and conducted their classes on the upper deck of one of the ferry boats.

In the fall of 1915, C. T. Bush, vice-president of the Charles A. Strelinger Company, and Mr. Frank Smith, vice-president of the First National Bank, persuaded the board of directors of the Detroit Board of Commerce to give the club a meeting place. There they were royally housed as long as they needed a home outside of their own headquarters.

From this start in 1914, the Pathfinders of America have, and are now reaching, thousands of men and women in various prisons, either by correspondence courses or by classes organized in the prisons, known as Inside Councils and conducted by inmate leaders under the direction of the Detroit Council. Weekly classes are conducted in the Wayne County Jail and the Detroit House of Correction for both men and women prisoners.

Our first Inside Council was organized in the Michigan State Reformatory at Ionia, Michigan, September 16, 1916, with 127 charter members, averaging 27 years and 2 months of age, representing 12 nationalities, three races and 19 religious denominations. During the year we influenced the lives of more than 600 prisoners—a transient population—320 of whom were released on parole. Of this number, only FIVE were returned as parole violators. Had the best previous record of the Reformatory prevailed, 74 would have been returned; or had the average prison record prevailed, 112 would have been sent back.

J. R. Walker, deputy warden, wrote the parent organization as follows:

"I feel that the institution is under obligations to the Pathfinders. It

cannot be denied that their influence has been a force for good, and a splendid help to discipline, and I now personally take this method of expressing through you as leader my thanks and appreciation to the officers and members of the club, not only for their splendid conduct, but for the good example set, and the influence exerted toward betterment of discipline and deportment of the men."

Our second Inside Council was organized at San Quentin, California, where wonderful results have been obtained. This is evidenced not only in the changed lives of the inmates, but also in the lives of those who are being released.

The third Council, notwithstanding the fact that it was organized at the invitation of prison officials, met with disaster, due entirely to the failure of succeeding prison officials to appreciate the merits of the Pathfinders. It was organized at the Michigan State Prison at Jackson, but was discontinued by the present administration, although the outgoing administration, under which the Council was organized and operated, heartily endorsed the work. Edward Frensdorf wrote:

"My eight years on the board of control at Jackson Prison, and the year I acted as warden of the institution, convinced me that the Pathfinders Club was one of the most elevating, satisfying, as well as educational features ever introduced into prison work."

Our fourth venture was in the female ward of the Vermont State Prison. It has been more than successful. Council No. 5 is at the Detroit House of Correction, and No. 6 in the Wayne County Jail at Detroit. No. 7 was at the Brushy Mountain Prison in Tennessee, but was discontinued owing to the inauguration of an administration indifferent to the work.

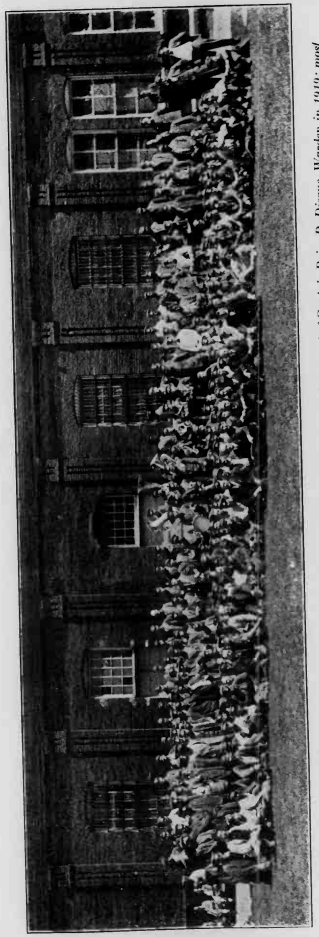
Councils and classes are being formed and discontinued, as the administration favors or frowns upon the work, but we are now influencing the lives of more than 5,000 men and women in prisons in various parts of the United States.

Getting results that are not only amazing, but will "stand the acid test," the Pathfinders concluded that to confine their work to prisons was like trying to purify a polluted stream at its mouth instead of at its source, and as Chairman of the State Legislative Committee of the Michigan branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers Associations, Mr. J. F. Wright introduced at their state convention at Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 27, 1921, a resolution covering the need of Character Building as a part of the School curriculum, which was unanimously adopted.

PATHFINDER GUIDE POST

By J. F. WRIGHT

The man who changes the standard of his life for the better through reason, is a stronger, safer and happier man, than the man who changes through fear of punishment.



Inside Council No. 3, organized at the Michigan State Prison, Jackson, Michigan, by the request of Captain Brice P. Disque, Warden in 1919; most heartily supported and encouraged by Edward Frensdorf, who succeeded Captain Disque, and dis-banded by Harry L. Hulburt, who succeeded Edward Frensdorf

LETTERS FROM PRISONERS

Michigan Prisoner:

I just returned to my little cell, and do you know, Mr. Wright, that the words spoken this evening in our class, has set me to thinking, a realization I will never forget?

Out of 43 years—20 of it spent in prisons—I never was touched as I was tonight—a sneak thief to a burglar—and just as our leader said, we haven't got a cent more now than when we started. There is nothing in the game; it is better to play square.

* * *

Colored Prisoner in Illinois:

It is my only wish to consecrate my whole life to this work, as I can now see a brighter day coming. Every day that breaks anew upon this new life, is brighter than the preceding one.

The time is not long before we will have an opportunity to organize an INSIDE Council in this Institution, as I am interesting more men each day.

* * *

Iowa Prisoner:

Before I was introduced to you and your plan of life, I constantly blamed Society in general, and some persons in particular for the plight I was in. Since I have had the opportunity of reading your lessons and books, I can see how my scheme of living was false.

* * *

Montana Prisoner:

I have come further during the past year with your help than I ever got before in all my life time; the ideals of today are so far ahead of last year that if I had not kept track of myself, I would not know it was the same man; and when I look forward and see the great possibilities before me, can hardly say enough to express my thanks to the unseen powers that directed the newspapers into my hands, through which I learned of the Pathfinders of America.

* * *

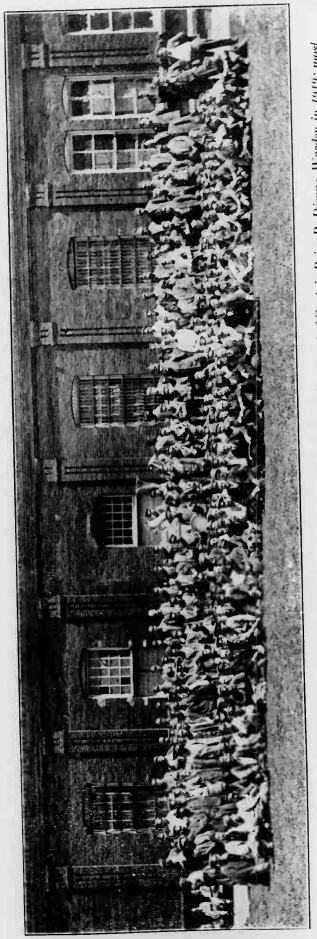
California Prisoner:

I came to this prison to serve three years, and I want to tell you, Mr. Wright, that I don't regret it at all, for I probably never would have become a Pathfinder or know anything about crime. Sometimes it is necessary to go through certain channels or roads to find the right path. Liberty means much to me, but what I have learned in the short time I have been here in my connection with the Pathfinders, is worth more to me than my three years of liberty.

* * *

Tennessee Prisoner (Ex-Minister):

I am convinced that this movement of the Pathfinders of America will bring about a reform in education and religion equalled by no event of the past, not even that of Wesley or Martin Luther. If only the thinking people knew conditions that exist, I feel that there would be a wave of reform sweeping over our land.



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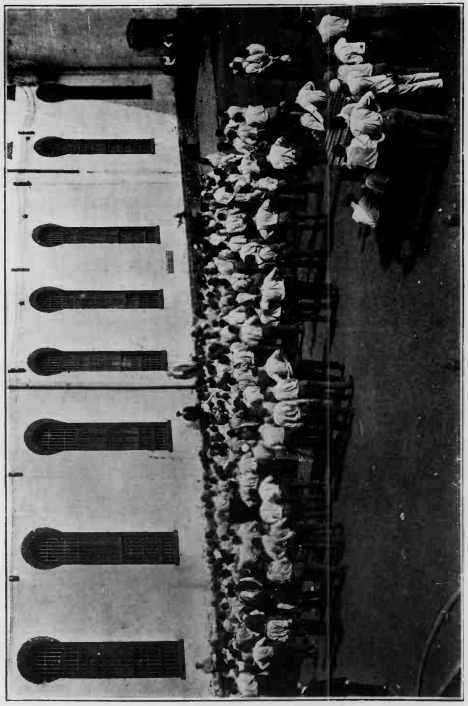


Inside Council No. 5, Detroit House of Correction, weekly class conducted by J. F. Wright

Ex-Editor—Sing Sing Bulletin:

While in Sing-Sing Prison, I heard all the isms, cults or new doctrines New York City had to offer the inmates, but nothing appealed to them or created such deep interest as your talk in the prison chapel that Sunday afternoon. You are destined for great things, and I am glad you crossed my path. You give me new faith and inspiration.

* * *

New York Prisoner:

Suffice to say I have come to an understanding of the true service of Life, and I could never go back to the old way, which I followed in my ignorance, but shall go through Life giving the very best there is in me, seeking, and living, what is true and good, to the very best of my knowledge and ability. And always I shall carry the candle you lighted, seeking to pass it on to those who will accept—to those who need it as I needed it.

What greater service can Man give than helping a Brother to a clearer understanding of the Laws of Life.

* * *

California Prisoner:

I am a fourth termer in penal institutions of various states, and have served 13 years solid on a life sentence behind these walls; and I want to say to you, Mr. Wright, that no official in any of the prisons I have been incarcerated, has ever attempted to teach me to become a real man. The Pathfinders have shown me the way.

* * *

California Prisoner:

The time has come when I shall go to another prison—from which I have escaped—so I am dropping you these few lines to let you know I leave here with a smile on my face and joy in my heart; glad that I am man enough to face all and smile all the way through the conditions I alone created. No, not somebody else, for I, and I alone, created the walls.

* * *

Woman Life Prisoner in Vermont:

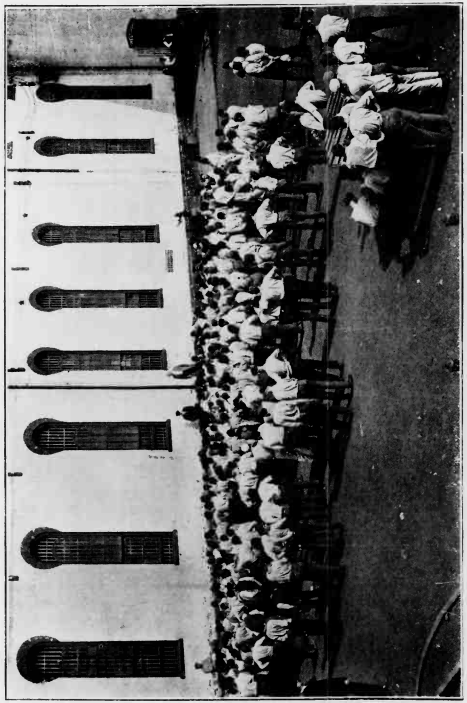
If I could speak a word before that body of noble men and women, with all the intensity of my being, with all the fervor of a soul lifted from the depths of despair; I would cry. Where moral suasion, punishment, sentimentality, preaching and all other external energy of men have failed, the CHARACTER BUILDING principles of the Pathfinders of America have fanned the spark of Divinity to the desire "*To Know the Law, and Live a Life of Service to Mankind.*" Words are feeble to express my gratitude to you and the noble organization that has salvaged so many men and women from the scrap heaps of Society.

* * *

New York Prisoner:

Mr. Wright, I wish I had your philosophy before I came here. But we must not dwell on the past. We must ever push forward to the end that we shall be of service and value to others, and with this in mind I am going forward, slowly, perhaps, but steadily forward, and one day I shall be a valuable man to my fellows.

Some day I shall be able to tell some wonderful things. I sometimes believe that folks would not believe me were I to tell them of men who had



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Pathfinder class in the chapel at the Wayne County Jail

come under the influence of your instructions, and had become so changed that one could not believe they had ever been otherwise. Many of these fellows are going to leave prison never to return, and only because of the fact that they are Pathfinders.

When I can stand with men as their equal—recognized or otherwise—I shall be glad to tell them of their responsibilities. I have learned much of value about men, good and bad, Christian and so-called, honest and nearly honest. Many are preaching Christ, but few are practicing Him.

* * *

Federal Prisoner:

Your very interesting letter of May 23rd is at hand, and I thank you for same. It is wonderful what a man will think of himself after reading your letters and lessons, then take stock of himself and look back at his own life and see what it has been.

I will tell you my own life story some time, and you shall be the judge yourself, as to what you have done, for good Jerry——of New York was nothing. I started to do time when ten years of age, and am still doing it, and I will be forty-one the 16th of June. Over 21 years I have spent in prison, so I think that is some record to be ashamed of instead of proud.

* * *

Another Prisoner Writes:

Because I have suffered, I know life—its hells, its sufferings, its hates, its jealousies, its hypocrisies, its joys, and its happiness. I have found what 95% of people lack—what they do not understand—Natural Laws.

I can say this much—my soul, my innerself, my spiritual aura, or whatever you wish to call it—I have found and understand it. I fear no one. I fear no more, I do not fear God, because I understand Him. I respect Him by respecting and abiding by His laws.

If what I have stated is not TRUTH—well, what then is life? I hope, comrade, that this message has shown my innerself, my spirit of all life itself.

What I know, what I understand, can never be bought; all the gold, the riches, wealth of the world, could never purchase it, and I flaunt this statement to the world.

* * *

A Life Prisoner's Test of the Pathfinder Philosophy Two Years After He Had Completed a One-Year Course:

"I wish to tell you that without additional lessons, and without further study on my part, the knowledge that I gained by my studies are as firmly impregnated in my system today as it was two years ago. I have tested it, and it works. I conscientiously believe that anyone possessing the knowledge of it that I have, could be happy in hell.

"Mr. Wright, I know I've got 'That Something' that no other inmate of this institution has, and I would not trade it for all the money in the subtreasury. If the public would only wake up to the importance of Character Building in the public schools throughout the country, how much sorrow, crime and destruction it would eliminate.

"The changed mode of living, and the happiness it has given me, has been worth more to me than either my release or any amount of money."

(The writer of the above letter was so vicious that no guard ever went near him that he did not keep his eye on the prisoner as he would on a wild animal. The Pathfinder lessons so changed the prisoner's viewpoint of life that he convinced the prison officials of his complete reformation and was released on parole, served as an officer in the world war and has been made a 32nd degree Mason.)

Pathfinder class in the chapel at the Wayne County Jail

come under the influence of your instructions, and had become so changed that one could not believe they had ever been otherwise. Many of these fellows are going to leave prison never to return, and only because of the fact that they are Pathfinders.

When I can stand with men as their equal—recognized or otherwise—I shall be glad to tell them of their responsibilities. I have learned much of value about men, good and bad, Christian and so-called, honest and nearly honest. Many are preaching Christ, but few are practicing Him.

* * *

Federal Prisoner:

Your very interesting letter of May 23rd is at hand, and I thank you for same. It is wonderful what a man will think of himself after reading your letters and lessons, then take stock of himself and look back at his own life and see what it has been.

I will tell you my own life story some time, and you shall be the judge yourself, as to what you have done, for good Jerry——of New York was nothing. I started to do time when ten years of age, and am still doing it, and I will be forty-one the 16th of June. Over 21 years I have spent in prison, so I think that is some record to be ashamed of instead of proud.

* * *

Another Prisoner Writes:

Because I have suffered, I know life—its hells, its sufferings, its hates, its jealousies, its hypocrisies, its joys, and its happiness. I have found what 95% of people lack—what they do not understand—Natural Laws.

I can say this much—my soul, my innerself, my spiritual aura, or whatever you wish to call it—I have found and understand it. I fear no one. I fear no more. I do not fear God, because I understand Him. I respect Him by respecting and abiding by His laws.

If what I have stated is not TRUTH—well, what then is life? I hope, comrade, that this message has shown my innerself, my spirit of all life itself.

What I know, what I understand, can never be bought; all the gold, the riches, wealth of the world, could never purchase it, and I flaunt this statement to the world.

* * *

A Life Prisoner's Test of the Pathfinder Philosophy Two Years After He Had Completed a One-Year Course:

"I wish to tell you that without additional lessons, and without further study on my part, the knowledge that I gained by my studies are as firmly impregnated in my system today as it was two years ago. I have tested it, and it works. I conscientiously believe that anyone possessing the knowledge of it that I have, could be happy in hell.

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24-year-old Colored Boy, Serving Ten Years for Highway Robbery, writes:

Dear Mr. Wright:

When a boy, my father tried to get me to join his church, but I was not interested. I knew I wanted something—what that something was I did not know.

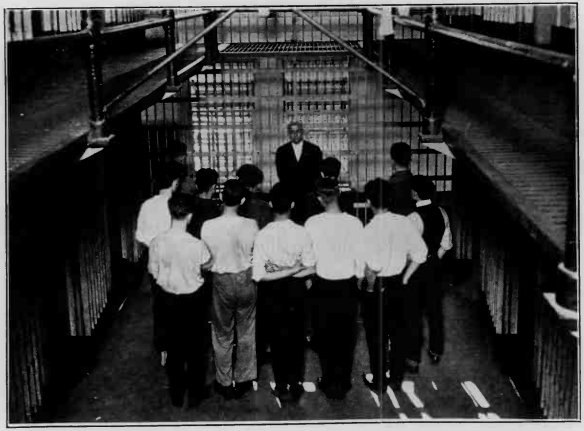
I didn't care where I went or was, I wasn't satisfied. I had a rolling mind from place to place. I found no peace. I once had the idea that the whole world was a bunco game. No—it wasn't the world, it was me I found out later. How did I find this out? The Pathfinders of America proved it to me after studying and observing what they teach.

When they proved this to me, I said, "Here is what I want," not because you say so, not because society says so, not because the legislature says so, but because I have proven it to myself. The thing I longed for and felt the need of, I now have.

I use it every day: when I get up, when I go to work, when I eat, when I sleep—I use it all the time. Many thanks to the leader and founder of my beloved Pathfinders—I love it. It serves my wants, it keeps my heart smiling and forgiving. I used to hold hatred for someone who had done me wrong, but now I just smile and go on my way.

I am a colored boy, age 24, serving ten years for highway robbery. I've been a Member of the Inside Pathfinders going on four years; am now an officer, and doing all I can to urge others to do as I have.

Just try it, they like it, keep it, free of charge. All the men I have ever got to try once, are still trying, and making good; some of them are honest at what they are trying to do. Of course we have some that are harder to learn than others, but with patience we are turning the light their way.



Inside Council No. 6, in Wayne County Jail—A ward. Weekly classes conducted by J. F. Wright. This is where the first offender needs immediate help. Is your boy immune from this?

ELECTROCUTED—HIS DYING MESSAGE TO YOU

Bellefonte, Pa.

Mr. J. F. Wright, Executive Sec'y & Leader,
Pathfinders of America, 404 Hodges Bldg.,
Detroit, Michigan.

My Dear Dad:

The deputy informed me today of your telegram and I immediately answered. It gave me lots of encouragement to hear such encouraging words from you, Dad. I was taken from jail Friday afternoon by eight men, and got here at 3:40 p. m.

This letter, full of sorrow, will reach you Monday, Dad. I know you are praying for me, and helping me. It is hard to leave this old world and loved ones behind—the world is cruel, harsh and bitter; seems ever alert to trip and snare a person; still with it all, one loves his life and clings to it. I am clinging frantically, desperately, to my life, but with few hopes.

Gilbert M Closkey

It is 1 o'clock Sunday morning, Dad. I can not sleep, don't want to sleep, for I have but 29 hours more to live. My wife and her mother were to see me today, here in the death house. My hair is all clipped off—I am in the cell that was occupied by the man who was in jail with me and died last month under this roof—a cell full of anguish, full of sorrow.

It is so hard, Dad to know that I must pay the extreme penalty and the one who killed the man lives. I did not kill him, Dad, and therefore I do not carry the guilt of his death on my soul. In the morning I shall receive Holy Communion, and I have resigned to His Divine will.

Five minutes after one, Dad—closely I watch the clock as it ticks off my precious moments. It is so lonely here, Dad, and quiet. I do not know where the death room is but my eyes have been opened, and I think I know the room of death from my body and freedom for my soul. Dear old Grandpap and Mom are waiting for me up there. Pray earnestly for me, Dad.

My wife told me what the lawyers were doing, after discovering evidence, but as yet I have received no message. Tell Mrs. Henry if you ever see her again that I thank her for all she has done for me, and that I plead with her to write to the boys, and cheer them up and lighten their burdens in prison. She lives at Hastings on the Hudson.

Ever since I heard my fate my mind has been stagnant, numb, will not function as of old. This is a trial, Dad, to my cheerfulness and optimism. Today, as my wife looked at me my heart was torn with agony, but I smiled to her to encourage her, so she will be brave.

My mother back home is confident that I will receive a stay. God protect her; my heart is heavy with grief for her; she has fought by my side through all this trouble, the best woman on earth—always have I been a sorrow to her, and yesterday in the cell first for many a day and last forever, I held her in my arms and she smiled though the tears coursed down her cheeks—she smiled a forced, weary, sad smile—it almost broke my heart; for above all earthly possessions I love my mother most of all—little sister is too young to realize.

Oh! Dad, help the boys, plead with them, entreat them to be good, honest men, and to avoid the temptations set before them. I'm tired, Dad, tired in body—I've done nothing wrong, but after this fight I have made to live, and I have lost—the lights are out, a dim lantern gives me light.

Sunday morning, 9:45—I slept fretfully since I went to sleep, and as no mail will go out till the chaplain comes and reads it, I thought I'd wait till this morning, and finish this letter. My mother called the priest, and he told me this morning that the whole town of Altoona is in an uproar on account of me being taken to this place—whether it will do me any good remains to be seen. Nineteen more hours—will try and write again tonight. Good-bye, God bless you, and assist your noble work.

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Enclosed with the letter was the following note from the prison chaplain:

"Dear Mr. Wright: This poor boy was electrocuted Monday morning at 7:06 o'clock. How sad. How I wish we could abolish this evil. He passed away without fear."

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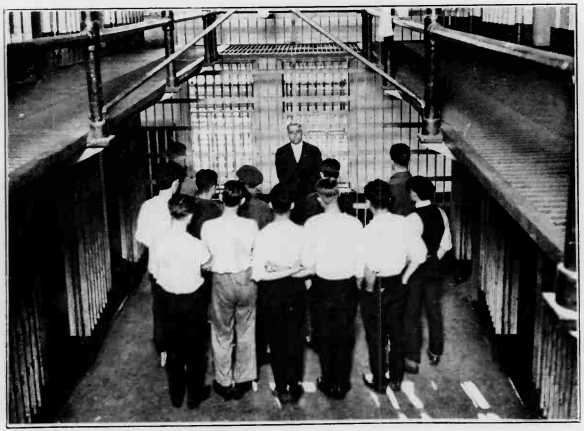

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Mrs. A. E. Stewart

Mrs. A. E. Stewart, President of the Review Club and one of Detroit's foremost club women, recognized that a responsibility rested upon the shoulders of club women, and that the knowledge of conditions existing throughout the country was a call to service, and as a result of that vision, an auxiliary was organized that included approximately 200 of the leading club women of the city, who mothered the Pathfinders through their infantile struggles with whooping cough, measles and mumps.

To save organization expenses during the war, the Auxiliary merged with the parent organization, but the influence of these good women is still an important factor in the progress of the work. We, therefore, consider it not only a privilege, but a pleasure, to introduce to our readers Mrs. A. E. Stewart, who will tell her own story.

MRS. STEWART'S LETTER

In 1917 Mr. Wright addressed the Detroit Review Club on the particular work in which he was interested. To those present it was like a piece of fiction, and we could scarcely believe that in our well beloved country, fair and beautiful, even in our own city, such an antithesis to our sheltered lives could exist. But the word had been spoken, and there was no doubt in our minds that a measure of responsibility rested on us. Mr. Wright asked only one form of assistance, and that was our moral support. After Mr. Wright had retired, at the suggestion of a member, a silver collection was taken, amounting to something over eight dollars, which was sent to Mr. Wright, and which he afterwards told us was used to release mail that had been held up for lack of funds for postage.

A special committee of the Club was formed to assist Mr. Wright. There were about forty members on that committee. In May, 1918, on my retirement from the Presidency of the Detroit Review Club, it was deemed advisable to use this committee as a nucleus for an "Auxiliary to the Pathfinders of America." An organization was formed, Officers elected, and meetings held at the Hotel Statler for two years.

Our aim as an Auxiliary was to create ways and means to arouse public consciousness to the need of more definite methods in the development of character in the young. A membership of nearly 200 was sustained until May, 1920, when the Organization Board of Directors transferred the funds and moral support to the Parent Body. To the Members, those two years will always be memorable. A program of educational propaganda was undertaken, not only for our own enlightenment, but for that of the general public. We entertained speakers from all over the country; workers in some branch of altruistic work who had a message to deliver, until our minds, ofttimes clouded by the mass of evidence presented, showing how much constructive work was necessary to lessen crime and prevent misdemeanor in the young, finally *cleared*, and we cried out, "Let us as a Nation, regardless of race, color or creed, in the education of our children, 'take the stitch in time.'" We recognize the value of technique in the study of the arts, but do we give as much thought to the technique of living lives that will contribute not only to our own welfare, but our neighbor's good? With such a thought and purpose we started to lay our foundation. Conferences were held with school principals and superintendents, both in the City and State, all agreeing to the need and realizing the lack. About this time the Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers Association was organized in Detroit, under the leadership of Mrs. W. H. Jobe, and the Auxiliary was able to pay from their funds for the stationery and printing of the first literature sent out, thus giving them a start.

"Great trees from little acorns grow," and it was the prayerful hope of every Pathfinder that every seed should fall in fertile ground. We now see some of the saplings, chief among them the "Junior Councils," Mr. Wright has established in our Public Schools. They speak for themselves.

In conclusion, I should like to refer to the unfaltering devotion of Mr. Wright to the "dream that is within him."

Never have I heard a word from him of doubt, distrust, or discouragement, and in every sense of the word he has had a problem to meet. He is well qualified to teach "Character Building" to young people, and to get results.

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MINNIE T. STEWART

SOME INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE

September 7, 1921.

Mr. Edwin L. Miller, Supt.,
Northern High School,
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sir:

As our survey of "Crime—its cause, cost, and cure," reveals a condition we think every citizen, parent, and teacher should know, and give serious consideration to, we beg to submit a few authentic statistics, together with a brief analysis of our view of the situation as we find it in our work with men and women in prisons, and will be pleased to have your opinion as to the solution of the problem involved.

This nation spends annually on our public elementary school education	$ 762,259,154.00
Every year the nation spends on face lotions and "beautifying" cosmetics	750,000,000.00
Normal Schools training teachers in the United States of America cost yearly	20,414,689.00
The bill paid with jolly alacrity for chewing gum in this broad land	50,000,000.00
Higher education totals yearly in the institutions of learning in America	137,055,415.00
Sundaes, sodas, and drinking fountain delights cost annually and gleefully	350,000,000.00
All departments of education in the whole nation cost annually less than	1,000,000,000.00
Joy rides and pleasure resorts present a yearly bill totaling the goodly sum of	3,000,000,000.00
In the United States we have invested in church property over	1,500,000,000.00
To maintain churches and Sunday schools we spend annually	500,000,000.00
Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. cost annually	$? ? ? ? ? ?
Masons, Odd Fellows, K. of C., K. of P., and thousands of similar Uplift Organizations spend each year	$? ? ? ? ? ?

When any nation spends EIGHT times as much money annually, in a futile contest with vice and crime as it costs to run its government, as is the case in the United States today, the criminal problem becomes a national question of vital importance; and, as our prison system is fed by over ONE MILLION arrests each year, no boy or girl is immune from its sting, and it becomes a local question for your fireside and mine.

We do educate and train our boys and girls to become master mechanics, master chemists, master astronomers, master musicians, and masters of all the sciences but the science of life. We have taught them how to earn a living, but not how to live. Why not teach them the science of life in Character Building, that they may become master men and women?

Yours in the joy of service,
Pathfinders of America,
J. F. WRIGHT,
Executive Secretary and Leader

Northern High School
WOODWARD AVE BETWEEN JOSEPHINE AND OWEN
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

September 15, 1921.

Mr. J. F. Wright,
404 Hodges Bldg.,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Mr. Wright:

I have read with great interest and complete approval your letter of September 7, 1921, on the subject of ethical education. Would it not be possible for you to print this letter, or something similar to it, so that we could distribute it at the meeting of the Parent-Teachers' Associataion in connection with the Michigan State Teachers' Association at the end of October?

Sincerely yours,

EDWIN L. MILLER

Chairman, Parent-Teachers Branch,
ELM Michigan State Teachers' Association.

ENDORSEMENT OF PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

Mrs. Edgar W. Kiefer, President of the Michigan Branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, Port Huron, Mich.

Port Huron, July 17th, 1923

My dear Mr. Wright:

I feel that perhaps the greatest work instigated by this Michigan Branch, and the one bringing today the most far-reaching and concrete results in our long proclaimed purpose of Child Welfare is that which you so kindly say was fostered by a resolution introduced to the 1921 State Convention in Grand Rapids and unanimously adopted, to further training in Character Building—which has been so wonderfully done by the PATHFINDERS OF AMERICA through their Junior Councils under your leadership.

This work, begun scarcely more than a year ago in the Detroit schools, is widening its scope and field each day and accomplishing one of the aims and purposes of our organization and yours "to raise the standard of home life," and I consider it a privilege to have been associated with you, its leader, in parent-teacher work, and wish you continued success in this broad field of service to which you have dedicated your life. With every good wish, I am

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) (Mrs. Edgar W.) KATHERINE D. KIEFER.

State President

OUR JUNIOR WORK

In October, 1921, during the drive of the Community Fund to raise money to support the city's charitable organizations, the pupils of the Tilden School found a slip bearing the names of the organizations that would benefit by the fund, among them the Pathfinders of America. The pupils asked their teacher what each society was doing.

As the teacher, Miss Alma Knapp, had heard of the work of the Pathfinders, she told them of the organization's prison activities. This at once aroused the interest of the youngsters, and they asked to have Mr. Wright invited to address them during their English period some day.

After Mr. Wright's talk, the children asked Miss Hart, their principal, if they might organize a Junior Council of Pathfinders for the study of Character Building. Miss Hart gave her consent, contingent upon the approval of Mr. Wright. This was the very opportunity Mr. Wright had sought. Tilden School, Junior Council No. 1, Pathfinders of America, was immediately organized and started the lessons at once.

As the Pathfinders knew of no other organization doing work of this kind, they had no precedent to guide them. Consequently, they had to make their own way and establish their place in the world's work. The first course was deivsed so that it would be completed at the end of the school year, so the first Junior Council of Pathfinders graduated in June, 1922.

As this work was in keeping with the resolution at the State Convention of the Parent-Teacher Association in 1921, the Detroit Council of Parent-Teachers appointed a committee naming the principal and two teachers of the Tilden School—to report on the result of the first year's work of the Pathfinders in that school, which follows:

The Detroit Council, Parent-Teachers Ass'n., Sept. 19, 1922
Detroit, Michigan.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Committee on Resolutions, appointed at our regular meeting June 20th, submit the following as their report:

WHEREAS—The Michigan Branch of the Mothers Congress and Parent-Teachers Association, in State Convention at Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 27th, 1921, passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, that we, the Michigan Branch of the Mothers Congress and Parent-Teachers Association, in convention assembled, invite the schools, churches, homes, offices and factories, of the State of Michigan, to co-operate with us in developing a curriculum for our Educational Institutions, that will educate and train our children to understand and appreciate their individual relationship and personal responsibilities in Life, by which they may become useful Citizens, and an asset to Society, rather than a liability."

WHEREAS—The Tilden School, in the City of Detroit, during the past year has given the Character Building lessons, prepared by the *Pathfinders of America*, and conducted by Mr. J. F. Wright, a most thorough try-out in our seventh and eighth grades, with results that have been most wonderful and satisfactory, not only to pupils and teachers, but to parents, and all who have made inquiry; be it therefore,

RESOLVED—That we recommend this course of lessons to any and all schools, not only in the City of Detroit, and State of Michigan, but to the Schools of the Nation, as a splendid move towards the end aimed at in the resolution passed by our Association in State Convention at Grand Rapids. And be it further,

RESOLVED—That copies of this resolution be sent to Mr. Frank Cody, Superintendent of our Detroit City Schools, and to Mr. J. F. Wright, Executive Secretary and Leader of the Pathfinders of America, for their files.

(Signed) ALICE V. HART, *Chairman, Principal, Tilden School*
(Signed) ALMA E. KNAPP, *Teacher, Tilden School*
(Signed) M. HARRIMAN, *Teacher, Tilden School*

ENDORSEMENT OF PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

Mrs. Edgar W. Kiefer, President of the Michigan Branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, Port Huron, Mich.

Port Huron, July 17th, 1923

My dear Mr. Wright:

I feel that perhaps the greatest work instigated by this Michigan Branch, and the one bringing today the most far-reaching and concrete results in our long proclaimed purpose of Child Welfare is that which you so kindly say was fostered by a resolution introduced to the 1921 State Convention in Grand Rapids and unanimously adopted, to further training in Character Building—which has been so wonderfully done by the PATHFINDERS OF AMERICA through their Junior Councils under your leadership.

This work, begun scarcely more than a year ago in the Detroit schools, is widening its scope and field each day and accomplishing one of the aims and purposes of our organization and yours "to raise the standard of home life," and I consider it a privilege to have been associated with you, its leader, in parent-teacher work, and wish you continued success in this broad field of service to which you have dedicated your life. With every good wish, I am

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) (Mrs. Edgar W.) KATHERINE D. KIEFER,
State President

OUR JUNIOR WORK

In October, 1921, during the drive of the Community Fund to raise money to support the city's charitable organizations, the pupils of the Tilden School found a slip bearing the names of the organizations that would benefit by the fund, among them the Pathfinders of America. The pupils asked their teacher what each society was doing.

As the teacher, Miss Alma Knapp, had heard of the work of the Pathfinders, she told them of the organization's prison activities. This at once aroused the interest of the youngsters, and they asked to have Mr. Wright invited to address them during their English period some day.

After Mr. Wright's talk, the children asked Miss Hart, their principal, if they might organize a Junior Council of Pathfinders for the study of Character Building. Miss Hart gave her consent, contingent upon the approval of Mr. Wright. This was the very opportunity Mr. Wright had sought. Tilden School, Junior Council No. 1, Pathfinders of America, was immediately organized and started the lessons at once.

As the Pathfinders knew of no other organization doing work of this kind, they had no precedent to guide them. Consequently, they had to make their own way and establish their place in the world's work. The first course was devised so that it would be completed at the end of the school year, so the first Junior Council of Pathfinders graduated in June, 1922.

As this work was in keeping with the resolution at the State Convention of the Parent-Teacher Association in 1921, the Detroit Council of Parent-Teachers appointed a committee naming the principal and two teachers of the Tilden School—to report on the result of the first year's work of the Pathfinders in that school, which follows:

The Detroit Council, Parent-Teachers Ass'n., Sept. 19, 1922
Detroit, Michigan.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Committee on Resolutions, appointed at our regular meeting June 20th, submit the following as their report:

WHEREAS—The Michigan Branch of the Mothers Congress and Parent-Teachers Association, in State Convention at Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 27th, 1921, passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, that we, the Michigan Branch of the Mothers Congress and Parent-Teachers Association, in convention assembled, invite the schools, churches, homes, offices and factories, of the State of Michigan, to co-operate with us in developing a curriculum for our Educational Institutions, that will educate and train our children to understand and appreciate their individual relationship and personal responsibilities in Life, by which they may become useful Citizens, and an asset to Society, rather than a liability."

WHEREAS—The Tilden School, in the City of Detroit, during the past year has given the Character Building lessons, prepared by the *Pathfinders of America*, and conducted by Mr. J. F. Wright, a most thorough try-out in our seventh and eighth grades, with results that have been most wonderful and satisfactory, not only to pupils and teachers, but to parents, and all who have made inquiry; be it therefore,

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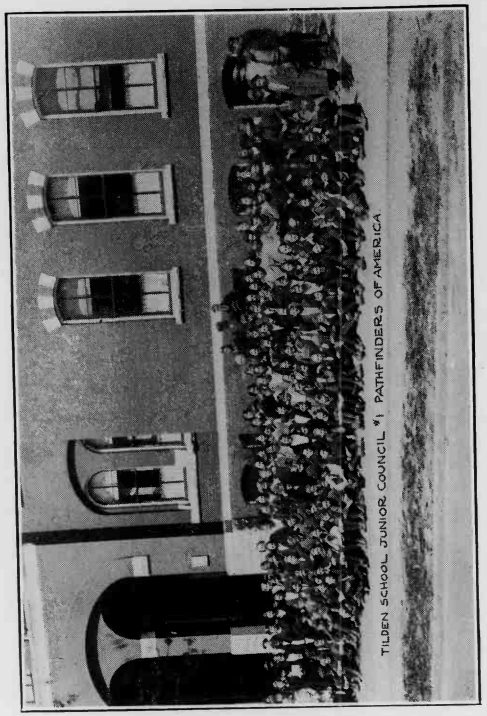


PATHFINDERS GUIDE POSTS

By members of the first graduating class

"Character is your auto; drive it straight. Keep it out of the mud; don't drive it on bad roads."—*12-year-old girl.*

"Character is more than your countenance."—*13-year-old girl.*

"It is not how much money you have—it is your brains that count. It is not what you think you can do, but what you really do."—*12-year-old boy.*

CLEVELAND BECOMES INTERESTED

The following letter in reply to an inquiry received from Cleveland, Ohio, will give additional light on the subject. It will show how the teachers feel in regard to the work.

TILDEN SCHOOL
Detroit, Michigan

Mrs. Jessie A. Foulk,
No. 7409 Linwood Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mrs. Foulk:

The Junior Council of the Pathfinders of America, of the Tilden School, are only too glad to have an opportunity of putting in a good word for the Organization of which they are the proud members.

We, who watch the progress of this branch of youthful character builders, find it quite remarkable that children of the ages ranging from eleven to fourteen or fifteen years, should have such a good understanding of the fundamental laws underlying self-development.

They not only take great interest in self-culture, but try to apply the ideas to their own lives. The parents also are showing a great interest in the lessons, and are studying them at home with the children.

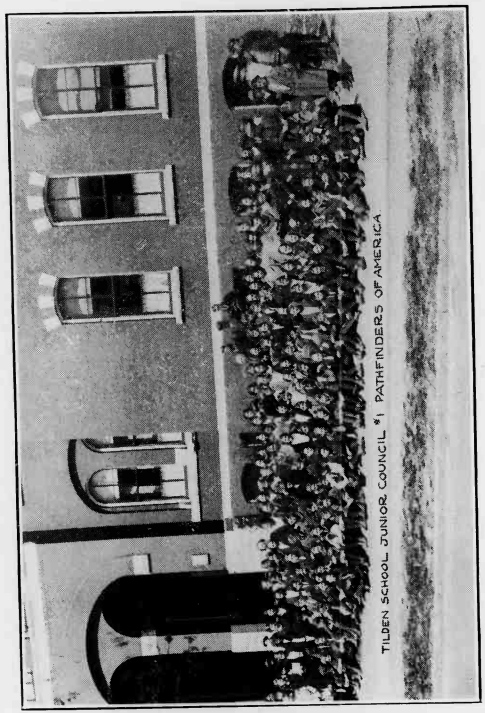
The Parent-Teachers' Association is deeply interested, and are taking up the work in a definite way. With the menace of an ethical disintegration in society before us, this character building movement is, indeed, a much needed force, and every one recognizes the fact that if we would build up a better social consciousness we must begin at the beginning; i. e., with the children. I should unhesitatingly endorse this method of ethical training as it is free from prejudices of any kind.

Now as to the method we follow in our Junior Organization: We have two meetings a month; one, which Mr. J. F. Wright, the Founder of the Pathfinders of America, attends, at which time he explains the lesson especially prepared for children, and a second meeting at which the children speak, giving their experiences, or reading their papers, which they have prepared on the lessons, or holding a debate on some question pertaining to the lesson.

Their active participation in this work keep them interested, and furnishes a spur to go on with their character building.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) A. KNAPP,
Teacher, Tilden School

When school opened in September, 1922, we started in on our second year with Tilden School Junior Council No. 1. Word soon passed around among the children in other schools, who sent delegations to visit the Tilden school to learn of the work. This resulted in the organization of eleven more Junior Councils during the school year, with four classes completing the prescribed course that graduated June 8, 1923. All these Councils have been with seventh and eighth grade pupils only, but now, some teachers are asking us to include the fifth and sixth grades next fall. In no case, did the Pathfinders ask principal, teacher or pupil to organize a Junior Council, as it has been a child's project pure and simple, as they have done all the organizing.



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NOTED EDUCATORS' COMMENT

United States Senator Woodbridge N. Ferris. Ex-Governor of Michigan; President and Founder of the Ferris Institute, organized in 1884—located at Big Rapids, Michigan. Recognized as one of the leading Educators in the United States

July 25, 1923

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His work in character building is fast assuming a national magnitude. Mr. Wright has the vision and intelligence to go forward with human engineering in a way that commends itself to all thoughtful Americans. He isn't burdened with fads, or with fiction. He knows human nature. He knows the conditions under which human nature is struggling, and with his tremendous energy and prudence, he is rendering the unfortunate men and women in prison, and the neglected boys and girls outside, splendid service.

I wish I knew how to express my appreciation more fully, so that scores might be benefitted through the work of J. F. Wright, where only a few are approached now. All progressive Christians and Statesmen would do well to join J. F. Wright in his efforts to make the world better.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) WOODBRIDGE N. FERRIS

LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
The City of Detroit
Greenfield Park School

My Dear Mr. Wright: January 3, 1923

Referring to the Junior Pathfinder work which you have fostered for the past two months in the Greenfield Park School. I wish to state that it has been a happy revelation to me.

May I just enumerate some of the things which, in my judgment, it has done for our School. First, it has practically eliminated truancy, and seems to have solved the problem. Second, it has very materially reduced the disciplinary cases coming to the office.

Third, in many cases, it has done more for moral standards in two months than five years of school life would do in establishing ideals of right living.

Fourth, it has reached a great many of those who need reaching, and who were more or less hopeless for the school. I regard this project as the greatest outside influence that has been injected into the School in my experience. I firmly believe in its future for the betterment of society.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) W. H. ALMENDINGER, *Principal*
Detroit, Michigan.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE OF
DETROIT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Mr. J. F. Wright, Executive Secretary, Detroit, Mich.
Pathfinders of America,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Brother and Pathfinder:

I have had such a happy heart since I talked with you last; I want to tell you about it. My Neighborhood Junior Pathfinders are responsible for my joy. Mr. Wright, it is simply great to go over a lesson with small boys—nine, ten, and eleven, as my group are all of this age. Their expression of gratitude is more than you can dream. One nine year old boy asked me if his brother, five, could join the Pathfinders. I remarked that he could, but we wanted boys who could read and write in this particular club. He said, "Well, he will learn to do it right in this club, because I will read to him, and he can hear and see all right."

I have arranged their lessons in orange colored folders (paper donated for Christmas). It is very attractive, and the boys are proud, indeed, of their lesson leaf. One ten year old lad asked me to put his booklet in the safe until he delivered his papers, because he didn't want any one to spoil it. I took care of it for him. Our boys are looking forward to the day with great anticipation when they will go in a group to the Cadillac (fifteen of them), to eat in a regular hotel dining room, and more than that, to be presented with Pathfinder pins on that grand and glorious occasion. I must do this one thing if I have to go alone with them.

I only wish every settlement, church, school, and in fact, every home could have the true Pathfinder spirit, "*To Know the Law, and Life a Life of Service to Mankind.*" It is so practical, and, oh! so much needed. May God inspire the hearts of our good fellow citizens to help promote the work. Can you imagine a greater work than putting little feet on the right path, and little hearts beating out the song of the true Pathfinders—to serve mankind?

My daily prayer is that this great work may prosper, and when we reach the end of the path, the Sun of Light, and the Son of Mankind may be united, and as unto our five year applicant—be able to *hear* and *see*.

Yours in service of Mankind,
(Signed) ADA H. MacDOUGALL, *Superintendent*

P. S. "He that has an ear to hear, let him hear, for many have ears to hear, and they hear not, and eyes to see, and they see not."

Slogan adopted by the Neighborhood House, Junior Council Pathfinders:

"Early to bed, early to rise,
Make Pathfinders healthy, wealthy and wise."

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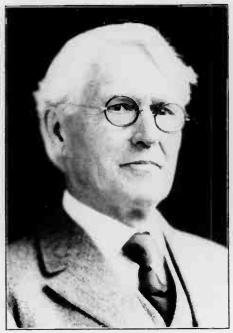

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Mr. J. F. Wright, Executive Secretary,
Pathfinders of America,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Wright:

I have been associated with the Detroit School System for the last twenty years. At present I am the home room teacher of the eighth grade in one of the schools where the Pathfinders of America organized one of their Junior Councils about six weeks ago, to introduce the study of character building.

For an English lesson last week the eighth grade wrote letters concerning the Pathfinder lesson No. 1. Just two ideas in regard to these lessons were suggested, when the letters were requested. What paragraph in lesson No. 1 impressed you most? What use have you made of it?

The letters I received were the most amazing responses I have ever had from any lesson in all my various class experiences. There are eighty-three pupils in the room. Fully half of them discussed the question of theft, and dishonesty, and their familiarity with this phase of morality.

Some few of the toughest of these boys admitted that ideas had been presented to them, of which they had never even thought—for example:

"Every stone in the edifice of your character was laid by your own hands." "The only person who can drag you down into thievery, drunkenness, or uncleanness is yourself."

I am sending these letters to you, and call your attention in particular to letters No. 1 and No. 2, from the 8-A Class. Letter No. 1 was written by the roughest boy in the class. When he received the lesson leaf, he either gave it away, or threw it away, in utter derision. Nothing was said to him in regard to this act. The lesson was posted on the bulletin board, in the rear of the room. Evidently he got it from there, or from some of the other pupils at his own request, for his letter is a wonderful exhibit, and shows a right angle turn in his thought in regard to dishonesty.

Another boy writes that the lesson was what prompted the attempt to break up a gang of twenty-one boys, who were teaching the younger boys to smoke cigarettes, and to steal. Three of our worst cases of truancy have been helped.

A parent visited our class the day of the second lesson, in order to get the lesson for her boy, who was absent. She said the first lesson had benefitted her boy to a remarkable degree.

I endorse these lessons as an absolutely potent factor, to cope with dishonesty, and many of the temptations of youth. The recent agitation among insurance and bonding companies; their need, and their appeal to the public schools, to take up the question of theft and dishonesty, could not be answered any more conclusively than by reading of the letters of these boys and girls, whose ideas certainly received a strong moulding power from the work the Pathfinders are organizing.

Very truly and sincerely,
(Signed) .....

P. S. Not to hold these children up as heroes, or victims of ridicule, we think best to conceal the school and teacher's name.

PATHFINDER GUIDE POST

By J. F. WRIGHT

"A child is the repository of infinite possibilities," and comes into the world a potential asset to society, as it comes in response to a UNIVERSAL CALL, and in fulfillment of a NATURAL LAW. If it ever becomes a liability, the fault is more with society than with the parents or the child, as society has the advantage of the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of the ages, to which the child has an inherent right, and society, as well as the parents and child must suffer and pay for what the child does not get.

METHODS EMPLOYED and RESULTS OBTAINED

The lessons consist of a 20 to 30 minute talk by Mr. Wright, on the subject of the lesson, then a synopsis of the lesson is mimeographed and given to each child, which in many cases is taken home and discussed with the parents, who have become equally interested. During the month, the pupils hold another meeting, to discuss between themselves and their teacher the practical points they have discovered and applied in their own daily lives. Then each Junior writes a letter to the Pathfinders, telling what particular point in the lesson appealed to them and why.

The subjects discussed in last years' course were as follows, in the order order named: "Be Faithful to Yourself," "Personality versus Individuality," "Duties versus Rights," "Educated versus Graduated," "The Law," "Inner versus Outer World," "Conscious versus Sub-conscious Mind," "Cause versus Effect," "Reading the Price Tags of Life," "Mastership, or Self Control." The following letters from the children best explain how they feel about the work.

12 year old girl writes:

Your first lesson was fine. I believe that your greatest enemy is yourself, but never realized it before. I think your lessons are helpful and are going to help me. Now every time I go to do something wrong, I say to myself, "Would I want Mother to know it? Would I want the Pathfinders to know it? It has helped me a good deal to speak for weaker ones, and myself.

12 year old boy writes:

I think the most interesting paragraph in our lesson is: "You are your greatest enemy if you are a coward; but if you are brave, you are your greatest friend." I used to ask my brother to steal, but now I find, it is wrong. There is a gang of boys, about twenty or more, who teach the small boys to smoke and steal. After several attempts, I finally succeeded in breaking it up.

12 year old boy writes:

A watch that has no Personality but has Individuality is better than the watch that has Personality but lacks Individuality. I have a watch that has neither Personality or Individuality; it has a plain nickel case, and is usually five or ten minutes out of the way.

13 year old girl writes:

I do not think I have been what I should have been. I have Personality but not Individuality; this week I guess I left it at home. My reputation is pretty bad this week: my teacher has scolded me a lot, and I feel pretty bad about it. Will you please help me to be a better Pathfinder?

11 year old boy writes:

I sincerely hope some means will be found to establish a Pathfinder Council in every school. I know they will enjoy your lessons, and it will help them, I'm sure. I liked lesson No. 3 much better than lesson No. 2. Now when I look back I can see quite a few places, or opportunities, I have had to "carry the message to Garcia." Sometimes I have done it, and sometimes not. When the half-hour bell rings, there is always a groan from the pupils, for they would like more time for their Pathfinder lesson.

13 year old girl writes:

Before our lesson, "Rights vs. Duties," I had never thought of the three questions of life: "What may we know?" "What may we do?" and "What may we hope for?" I have found out by my own experience that "What we may do?" is the greatest of life. I am sure if every one did their duty they would not have to worry about their rights.

12 year old boy writes:

As yesterday was Lincoln's birthday, and the thought of him being educated and not graduated, recalls your lesson. To my mind, I think he is a fine example. He taught himself the way to win out. In doing so, he won for himself a fine character and a place in the hearts of the people. Perhaps, if he had been educated and graduated in a school, he could not have made better use of his education.

12 year old girl writes:

I have gained so much good since you gave us the lesson, "Educated vs. Graduated," two weeks ago. As I listened to your talk on this subject, I immediately resolved not to try and graduate first, but to be educated and then graduated. I certainly hope I will accomplish what I have resolved to do. I am waiting anxiously for your next lesson.

15 year old boy writes:

Your lesson on "Education vs. Graduation" has taught me, that while in school I should work not for graduation, but for education, and graduation will come natural.

13 year old boy writes:

I have succeeded in getting the point of the fifth lesson. Let us suppose I was walking down the street and met an old lady carrying a bag, and I helped her. When she got home I got no reward from her, but nature rewarded me in my character, for: "What you give of yourself, you find, your world is a reflex of you."

14 year old girl writes:

The last lesson to me was a very difficult one. It gave me great food for thought. As I walk to school, now I notice things which always seemed so insignificant before, are here for accomplishing some purpose. Law to me means a great deal. Man's law is imperfect. It is hard to understand the wonders of Universal Law.

13 year old girl writes:

I have been thinking and wondering about our last lesson because I had never thought of myself, or anyone else, living in two worlds—one of thought and the other of action. One day I asked my father how many worlds he lived in. He replied, "I live in one world, of course." Instead of disputing him, I brought him my lesson. After reading it over carefully, he said, "I guess you are right, Martha."

13 year old boy writes:

I enjoyed our lesson on "Inner vs. Outer World," very much. If there was a big man and he did not care what he let go into his inner world, or his storehouse, and a smaller man who only let good things in his storehouse, the one who would be the greatest man in the world would be the smaller man.

11 year old boy writes:

I think lesson No. 7, "The Conscious vs. Sub-Conscious Mind," is a continuation and development of lesson No. 6, "The Inner vs. the Outer World." One tells of the two worlds, the other tells of the forces which control these worlds. The conscious mind has control of the Outer World of Action; the sub-conscious mind takes care of the Inner World of Thought.

The sub-conscious mind is in a measure dependent upon the conscious mind, but it has many duties which it performs without any help from the other. It heals cuts in our body, and keeps every little cell in working order. Our conscious mind controls our actions in the world toward our fellow man. The two minds may be compared to a battery of artillery: The conscious mind aims, the sub-conscious mind fires.

The degree of development of the conscious mind, and the ideals by which it is controlled, determines a man's value to society.

To me, this is the most important lesson in the course. I think there is more in it than any of the others: it is broader and means more. As the lesson says, "Every man when he comes into this world is provided with the same material for building character. It is up to himself to make the kind of a man he wishes to be."

The rough material that he is furnished with may be compared to a block of marble or granite. Himself to a sculptor. Self-control and will power are the tools he works with, and his ideals to the model he is copying. During his life-time he should be ever working with his tools, to fashion his rough material into a beautiful statue—CHARACTER.

A person who has self-control is a king; one who has not, is a slave. Only when a person possesses self-control is he fitted to enter his "vocation in life." The individual who has not self-control will never rise very high in the world. He will not have the strength to resist the temptations of drink and like evils.

As a man is the maker of his own environment, it is his duty to develop and strengthen his self-control and will power to such an extent that he will help to create for himself and others the kind of a world worth living in.

15 year old girl writes:

In the lesson we were given headed, "Mastership or Self-Control," I find many interesting things.

There are many men who change from bad to good because they fear punishment. Why do men do wrong when they do not want to take the punishment afterwards? If these men do turn to good from fear of punishment, they are not as strong, as safe, or as happy, as if they change through reason.

11 year old girl writes:

I think that the lessons are a great help to both children and parents. I am sorry not to get any more lessons this year.

I wish that I could continue getting the lessons, for I have moved out in the country.

12 year old boy writes:

I was extremely interested in the last lesson. It has helped me to find the road of success. I hope the letters are all over America, and eventually will be in all foreign nations. For me, I want to have them in every grade I am in, and so do many others.

12 year old boy writes:

I cannot express in words what these lessons meant to me, and will mean to me in future years. I know that the Pathfinder lessons put into one, could be a guide post for the world, and I sincerely hope that I can put these lessons, as a guide post, for myself, and live up to them.

I had a little trouble in understanding the lecture on Human Engineering. I think it brought to our minds many instances that could refer to our own school.

I think that the Pathfinder lessons should be discussed in our homes, as well as in the schools.

15 year old boy writes:

We have discussed our last lesson very thoroughly, and I have understood many details that are of much value.

I have a good recommendation to give to the Pathfinder Organization. Before I ever knew the name of this Club, I was trusted but little. Now a stranger can give me a ten dollar bill, and get the change without trouble. The other day I got into mischief; it ended in bad luck, for a window was broken. I did not run because I was going to be trusted. A man came out of the house mad as ever and asked who broke the window. I said that I, and some others, had broken it, and asked the price, which cooled him down, and said I need not bother about the cost because I told the truth. I expressed my thought of the Pathfinder Organization. As the rest did not show enough ability to confess that they had helped, I paid half and he the other.

13 year old girl writes:

The lessons which you have given me were all taken home. My parents have enjoyed them as much as I have, and I have enjoyed them a great deal. I have enjoyed the time when you came to give us the lessons. Yesterday I asked my teacher whether she had any lessons she didn't need. She gave me quite a few of the left-overs. I took them gratefully. Some of my friends have asked for lessons, which I have sent them.

The last lesson which you have given us, discusses a quality which is lacking in so many people. More men and women and children go to jail for the lack of self-control. They have done wrong for a while, and resent it. They decide to turn over a new leaf. It is quite hard for the first few days, and they find it so. The weak people, finding it so hard, say, "Oh!, its too hard to do, guess I'll go back." They go back to where they came from, to find themselves in jail.

When I first came to this school last September, I used to "get the teachers' goats." I have had to go down to the office every day. Some times twice a day for misbehavior. I have had to go to court three and four times every Friday. About two months ago I decided I would turn over a new leaf, and I did. I have controlled my temper many times. I have not been sent out of any of my classes, nor have I been taken up to court since.

Several girls one day were discussing with their teacher the wonderful change that had come over the writer of the above letter, when she appeared on the scene herself, and the teacher said, "Come on, ——, we were just talking about you," and she replied, "I hope it is something good." Then

the teacher answered and said, "Yes, ——, it is good," and the girls then told her that they wondered what had been the cause of her great change, and she replied, "The Pathfinder lessons. I am trying to be a true Pathfinder."

(In applying for a position at the close of school this girl was so proud of her certificate that she showed it to the head of the employment department of a big business concern, who had told the girl just ahead of her that they needed no more help; but after reading her certificate, said, "This is the kind of help we want," and hired her.)

14 year old girl writes:

I have since learned from our lesson that self-control makes master men and women. After you have achieved this, you are captain of yourself.

If a boy or girl right in our own school has many faults, he must change his ways, but it is better for him to see where he was wrong, and to change his habits than to change them for fear of being expelled or other punishments.

I have enjoyed your lessons very much, indeed, and hope that we will be able to continue them, although we are in another school.

13 year old girl writes:

In studying lesson No. 8 I find that the object of the lesson is to make clear the difference between OBTAIN and ATTAIN. I am sure I understand it now, though I had to study the lesson quite hard at first.

We cannot *obtain* character, but we can *attain* it. Things that we attain must be worked for and developed. Things that we are able to obtain are perishable, while that which we may attain is imperishable.

Our unearned increment is something for which we have not worked, but something we get some other way, such as the example you gave of the one who might inherit someone's library, but would not have the knowledge the other person had from it.

This lesson was very interesting and I liked it very much. It is a lesson that makes one think of the things they want to attain.

12 year old girl writes:

In the last lesson a certain paragraph says, "Some men build a hog-pen, a mad-house, or a cess-pool, while out of the same material another man builds something of joy and beauty forever: "WHY IS IT?" I think that the man who builds something beautiful has found his own soul, the others have failed to do so.

A man who has done wrong all his life is afraid to die, but the man who has done right through his life-time says there is no harm in life or death.

Here is a letter from a 15-year-old girl Pathfinder graduate, written one month after her graduation:

Dear Mr. Wright:

I received your lovely letter asking me if I would willingly volunteer to be of some service to you.

Mr. Wright, I would be more than glad to make the Pathfinders organization a great success. I have always loved the club and also the people in it. It has not only taught me to love them, but to love everyone else.

It was grand of you, dear friend, to send a copy of my letter to Miss Knapp, and also Miss Hart. I know they will both be delighted that I have taken such an interest in the work.

Any time you need anyone to help you, I will be more than pleased to be of some service to you. I feel fully prepared to talk on any subject pertaining to Pathfinder work—arithmetic not so acceptable. Thanking you again for the letter, I wish you would kindly keep me posted on Pathfinders and statistics.

"Oh, I'm so sorry they're all over!"

This is the exclamation of so many Juniors upon completing the prescribed course. Not only do they tell us so themselves, but their teachers bear the statements out. So high does the enthusiasm run that they bring their lessons home with them and eagerly discuss Pathfinderism with their parents.

Do these letters show where we belong in the great battle for humanity?

PATHFINDER GUIDE POST

By J. F. WRIGHT

It is not how people dress, what college they graduate from, what lodge they belong to, what Bible they read, what creed they profess, what church they attend, what they believe, or how much money they have that determines character. It is what they do or fail to do, and the sin of OMISSION is as important an element as the sin of COMMISSION.

GUIDE POSTS FROM JUNIOR PATHFINDERS

"The thought of man is higher than the sky. He who does more than he is told to do, knows more."—*12-year-old boy.*

"Peace does not live in the heart of the wrong doer."—*13-year-old boy.*

SPEECHES OF THE CHILDREN

The following copies of the graduating speeches by the Junior Pathfinders, will give one some idea of their view of the work. We particularly call attention to the fact that while there were four different schools represented in the graduating exercises, at no time previous to the graduating exercises had they ever met to discuss the lessons or the work, yet one will readily notice that they all struck the same keynote in their interpretation of the Pathfinder work.

Speech of Clarence R. Wylie, 11 years of age, Junior Council No. 3. Greenfield Park School, Chairman of the Graduating Exercises:

Clarence R. Wylie

Fellow Pathfinders and Friends:

We are gathered together this evening to celebrate a very important and significant event in our lives. After nearly a year of study we are to be given our certificates, and become full-fledged Pathfinders.

Now that we have finished this course, Mr. Wright is undoubtedly wondering just how these lessons have been received by members of the various Councils. To some, perhaps, they have been merely a series of eight lessons, to be read, reported upon, and immediately dismissed from the mind. But to most of us, however, the course has brought a deeper message; one which we may not as yet fully comprehend, but whose real meaning will be revealed to us as the years go by.

Those who have seriously and earnestly studied and absorbed these lessons will find that they will be of the utmost value in shaping their lives and developing their characters.

An example comes to my mind which will illustrate what the Pathfinder course can do for a boy or girl who has started on the wrong road. The boy of whom I speak was in the habit of smoking, swearing and stealing. Then a Pathfinder Council was organized at his school, and a change for the better took place almost immediately. The improvement has continued, and he is now respected and liked by his classmates.

The course offers a different appeal to those who have no particular need for reform, but who have a desire to strengthen and enrich their lives, and so to each one, high or low, strong or weak, the Pathfinder course is an inspiration to higher ideals and better living.

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The course offers a different appeal to those who have no particular need for reform, but who have a desire to strengthen and enrich their lives, and so to each one, high or low, strong or weak, the Pathfinder course is an inspiration to higher ideals and better living.

We, who are graduating here tonight, will always be grateful that we have had the privilege of belonging to this wonderful Organization, and we will endeavor to carry its message of helpfulness and inspiration to those who have not as yet come under its influence. Let us make our own lives such that we will be living examples of the truths taught, and let us use our influence in whatever way we can to bring about the organization of a Pathfinder Council in every school.

The building of character is truly a noble occupation, and one which is vital to the well being of the nation, as well as the individual. It would be a good thing if Mankind in general would give this subject deeper and more serious consideration, because as Horace Greely has said:

"Fame is a vapor,
Popularity an accident,
Riches take wings,
Those who cheer today may curse tomorrow,
Only one thing endures—CHARACTER."

George Olmsted, 13 years of age, Tilden School, Junior Council No. 1

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Pathfinders, and Friends:

My topic is: Of what value will the lessons be to us when we have grown up? First: if we wish the lessons to be of any value to us, we must put them into practical use in every day life. After ten or twenty years have past these duties will have become habits, and we will perform them unconsciously.

These principles are our kit of working tools, and if followed, will make us masters of our world, and if we find ourselves, we find the best part in the world for us. There is a place for all these principles; for instance, in the home we should observe the law of mutual service; in the school, when we have graduated, we should also be educated.

The lesson that will be of the most value to us is "Reading the Price Tags of Life," for it will keep us from spending our money foolishly, or investing in get-rich-quick schemes.

The basic law of life is that of "Cause and Effect" which operates all the time, in both the inner and outer world: Nobody can escape this great Universal Law.

The lesson, "Personality vs. Individuality," teaches us that as far as the nature of human beings is concerned, they have both a personality and an individuality. We will profit by this lesson in future years; for instance, we decide to buy an automobile; it is very pretty to look at. If we buy the car on its looks, we are apt to be deceived; the engine, the individuality of the car, may be a very poor one.

If we know these truths, we will "KNOW THE LAW, AND LIVE A LIFE OF SERVICE TO MANKIND."

Miriam LeVey, 12 years of age, Tilden School, Junior Council No. 1

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Pathfinders:

I am very grateful for this opportunity to tell you what I think of our Pathfinder work. Some people think that the Pathfinders are the only ones familiar with the subjects of our Pathfinder lessons, but this is not so, as I have reason to know otherwise. We had a young man visit our home, a graduate of Harvard University. Although he knew nothing about the Pathfinders' work I was surprised to hear him talk about the two topics,

"Cause versus Effect" and "Conscious versus Sub-conscious Mind." I told him about our Pathfinder work, and it left a wonderful impression upon him.

The lesson that I enjoyed most was "Reading the Price Tags of Life." Is reasoning power only the power with which we reason out small things such as arithmetic problems? No! Reasoning power is that which distinguishes right from wrong. Would all these people who are victims of crime suffer if the offender used his reasoning power to distinguish right from wrong? No! Everybody who invents something shows that he has good reasoning power. But inventors are not the only people who use their reasoning power. Any person who can distinguish the true from the false, also is using his reasoning power. But it is sad to say that there are some who forget to use this power, and are put in the insane asylum or commit wrong. There is not a day that goes by that we do not hear of a robbery or murder.

Think what a wonderful world we would have if these people would stop to use their reasoning power before acting. There would be no crimes committed. At times, I think it is almost impossible to expect that of the people, but I sincerely hope that some day my wish will come true, and there will be no more crimes or injustices committed.

Another lesson which I enjoyed was "Graduated versus Educated." We all read the story of the white boy and the colored boy. One was graduated but not educated, while the other was educated and graduated. But do you have to be graduated to be educated? No! There are many cases in which the person has been educated, but not graduated. One of our foremost Americans, Abraham Lincoln, was educated but not graduated. He got his education by hard work, and his only paper was an old coal shovel. On this he did all his English and sums. There are many others, including Edison and Franklin.

It is a wonderful opportunity to be graduated and educated, but it is better to be educated and not graduated, than to be graduated and not educated. It is service, and nothing else, that determines our value to society. I am very proud of this pin I wear, for then everybody knows that I am a Pathfinder, and although I try to live up to our Pathfinder motto, "*To know the law and live a life of service to mankind*," I am not sure that I succeed at all times, but I hope that some time I shall be as true a Pathfinder as Mr. Wright is. Our Pathfinder work is gradually, but surely spreading, and we all hope that some time there will be Junior and Senior Pathfinder Councils in all cities of the world.

These lessons that we have studied will be of use to me all through my life. For instance, the one "Be Faithful to Yourself." This means in the words of the lesson, "No real calamity ever crushed you that did not enter through the door you unlocked yourself." From this I understand that I shall have to look within myself for everything that happens to me.

In the lesson, "Mastership or Self-Control." I have learned that if *I THINK*, I shall be the creator of my own environment, or "be boss," but if I do not think for myself, I shall be the creature of my environment, and so will be bossed. From the lesson, "Rights versus Duties," I have learned that everybody is born to do part of the world's work, and if we do not do our share of duties, we should not have any rights. The man who shirks his responsibilities throws his work upon the shoulders of another. All these men who sit in gambling houses from early morn till late at night have no rights, for they do not do their share of the world's work.

From the lesson, "Cause versus Effect," I learn that without ideas we can do nothing. In the June issue of the American Magazine I noticed an article: "It's fine to have ideas: but do you use them?" All that we see we obtain, but all that we cannot see and get, we attain. Quoting Mr. Wright, "All that is obtained is perishable, and all that is attained is imperishable." If we go to school of our own free will we will attain; if we are sent to school we obtain.

I urge that if any of us go to other schools we will start, if possible, a Junior Council if that school has no Junior Council now.

Kenneth Hunt, 13 years of age, Tilden School, Junior Council No. 1

Mr. Chairman, Friends, and Fellow Pathfinders:

I count it an honor to be chosen to give you a little talk on the Pathfinder Council for my class-mates, and I have chosen one of the lesssons or lectures, as we now call them, as my subject. I take our last lecture, "Self-Control," as it covers most of the other lectures.

There is a story I heard that is a fine example of self-control. A train was passing through a small town in Ohio. It was an hour and a half late, and was also the last train for twenty-four hours. The engineer was putting on steam so as to make up some of the time he had lost. In some way a mistake had been made where they kept the records of all trains coming or going through the town. They had recorded that train as having passed through an hour ago. There had been a Directors' meeting called at another town, and all the Superintendents were requested to come. They had called a special train to carry the Superintendent of this town to the town in which the meeting was held. It happened that the train was put on the same track which the other one was. This train was going in the opposite direction from that of the other one. The trains were going fast, and it would be impossible to stop immediately. A conductor who was crossing the track saw the trains coming, and knew there would be a collision. There was a side track and switch nearby so he ran over to it and pulled the switch so that the oncoming south-bound train would turn onto the side track and save an impending wreck. If the conductor had not had a clear head, and had perfect control over himself there would have been a wreck, and maybe loss of valuable life. This is just one of the incidents that prove that self-control is very important.

Self-control in many places, as on the street or in a fire, has saved life. For instance, an auto coming along the street at a good speed when another auto would come along in the opposite direction and turn the corner—only self-control would save them from an accident.

In the home, a boy or girl might have a bad temper. Only self-control could keep their temper from bursting out, and it would also save the person from many embarrassing situations later.

Self-control is also very important in the factories. You very likely have read in the paper about people being injured by the machinery in the factory. A person may be careless and get his hands or fingers caught in the machinery. It would take a man who had control over himself to turn off the machinery, and save the person from further injury. That person who is master over himself at all times, and at all places is his own boss, and his life will be helpful wherever he is.

This power of self-control makes a character strong, and is thus one of the most important powers any man or woman or child can have.

Richard Gault, 14 years of age, Owen School, Junior Council No. 2

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Graduates,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It affords us much pleasure to be here tonight, and I consider it an honor to represent our Council in an occasion of this kind.

Mr. Wright came to our school in November, 1922, and organized what is known as Council No. 2, of the Owen School.

At first we needed much care and coaching to handle our meetings, but found willing helpers amoung our teachers. By applying the lessons to our lives we learned to be more confident and can now conduct our council meetings ourselves, but oftentimes we feel the need of the advice and counsel of our teachers.

We cannot expect that all the good seed sown in these lessons will take root and grow, but some must, and show forth in our future lives.

One seldom reaches the heights which one desires to reach, but it is always best to aim high.

One of the lessons which I think made a great impression upon us, is that the experiences of life teach us that we are our own worst enemy. We cannot travel without having trouble with ourselves. The conquering of one's own life, and facing squarely one's individual responsibility is one of the most searching tests of character. In one way or another life forces us to meet this great test. The great decisions may come to us through a struggle with temper—the control of habits—in the every day decisions which we are forced to make in meeting the temptations which lead us astray, or steal away our honor.

We must construct our future with materials which we, by our own choice, select for our own use.

How true are the words of the poet—

"We, ourselves, shape the joys and fears,
Of which the Life to come is made.
And in the field of destiny,
We reap as we have sown."

We have been intrusted with ourselves—capable of failure or success, as we go through life. No amount of information will in the end make any difference to us unless we resolutely do our own thinking.

It is easy to say that we are to be graduated tonight, but to be a straight, right-thinking, reliable, intelligent boy, is difficult.

The lessons have been full of wonderful thoughts, and I am sure that this group of graduates will turn out boys and girls who will honor their school, home and country, if they carry these inspiring messages into active practice.

It is my hope that amid the coming scenes of life, we shall try to keep in our memories these lessons, and that our lives may serve wherever possible in giving the message of these lessons to others.

On behalf of the Owen School, I wish to express our thanks to you, Mr. Wright, for the good which you have endeavored to instill into our minds, and express to you our sincere appreciation of your help, your advice, and your council.

Ora Stansbery, 14 years of age, Owen School, Junior Council No. 2

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Graduates,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Loyalty, Character and Service should be the watchwords of every person who really wants to live up to the name—PATHFINDER.

Loyalty means not only loyalty to others, but to ourselves. Being loyal to ourselves signifies that we must send only clean and pure thoughts to our storehouse of knowledge.

Character is what we are when no one is watching us. Character is our own true selves.

Some people boast of good character, but by their actions this hidden treasure is never seen. A good habit can be formed just as easily as a bad one, as we, ourselves, are the sole masters over character.

"As a man thinketh so is he."

Service is all we have to offer society that is truly ours; in other words, it is a moral obligation fulfilled.

Money is the medium of exchange in the Commercial World, while Service is the only medium of exchange recognized by the Universal Law in the Spiritual World, where the souls of men operate on equal terms.

Daniel Webster said, "If we work upon marble it will perish. If we work upon brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble into dust. But, if we work upon the Mortal Mind, if we imbue them with right principles, with the love of God, and love for our fellow man, we engrave on these tablets something that will brighten all eternity."

Loyalty, Character, Service,
Our watchwords wherever we go,
On our journeys from torrid tropics
To frozen lands of snow.
From East to West,
From North to South,
No boundary line we know;
Pathfinders, eager and willing,
We'll seek new paths for the right.
We'll help the ones who may go astray,
And turn their thoughts to the light.

Jacob Slutsky, 12 years of age, Owen School, Junior Council No. 2

The Pathfinder work teaches us many principles, which are very important in our lives.

In order to live right, and to live a life of service, we must have an understanding of the principles of life. One of the principles is:

Each of us has a Sub-conscious Mind, which is our storehouse of knowledge. Memory is our storekeeper. If we want to save something, we tell the storekeeper to put it away where he could find it when we need it. He puts it on a shelf, where it will not be hard to find. If, when time passes, we find the knowledge worthless, we tell the storekeeper to put it in a corner out of sight.

A wise and honest man knows, and understands, this principle, and works according to it. He knows that if he goes around with a shiftless crowd, they will have a bad influence on him, and also, he will find no worthy friends. He knows that he is responsible for his future being, and works

for achievement, applying the principles of Human Engineering in all his actions.

All large firms like to take employees whom they know are reliable, honest, faithful, quick in thought, and quick in action. The faithful employees should be well acquainted with the work, know the principles of life, and also, work toward them.

Good habits are formed by the intelligent direction of our life forces, while bad habits are formed by the ignorant direction of the same forces. There is no root from which Nature grows evil, as error is not her aim. It is our ignorance of Nature's laws that brings evil into our lives.

Character is something that we make day by day, as our thoughts and deeds are chiselled upon us. Only by working from high principles can we have fine characters. Character is always a growth, and is made up of honestly, loyalty, courage, faithfulness, and lots of other sterling qualities. There is a quotation that "Character is greater than intellect," and I think it's true because intellect cannot get you anywhere unless you have got the right steering gear.

"Thought becomes action, action repeated becomes habit, habit forms character, and character decides destiny."

Our Pathfinder work is training our abilities for good citizenship. It teaches us to use our experience for our own betterment, and to serve others more efficiently.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. Wright, our leader, and are proud to be Pathfinders.

James Dunn, 13 years of age, Greenfield Park School, Junior Council No. 3

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Junior and Senior Pathfinders, and Friends:

I have been called on to speak to you about Junior Council No. 3—Pathfinders of America.

As President of this Council I realize more than the rest of the boys and girls do, the great strides our school is taking in being better Pathfinders.

Most of the children take their lessons home, and discuss them with their parents and friends.

In one of our lessons we found this quotation, "Thought becomes action, action repeated becomes habit, habit forms character, and character decides destiny."

If you think unclean things your character will be unclean.

Whatever one stores in his mind will later bear fruit in his character.

Many new things are brought up in our lessons; for instance, before our lessons came, many of the pupils of Junior Council No. 3 didn't know that it is as hard to break good habits as it is to break bad ones. If we form good habits while we are young, it will be hard to break the habits when we grow older.

I know Mr. Wright hopes there isn't any who are graduating who are not educated.

There is one thing more I wish to say, and that is, I hope Mr. Wright lives to see the Pathfinders on every part of the earth.

Lydia Connor, 14 years of age, Greenfield Park School, Junior Council No. 3

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen, and Fellow Pathfinders:

I really feel devoutly thankful that there are so many boys and girls who will graduate from the Pathfinders tonight. The work of the Pathfinders has done a great deal for the benefit of the Greenfield Park School, and I hope that it has done the same for the other Public Schools, and for the Councils of other cities.

It is especially up to us that we, the first graduates of the Pathfinders, show what we can really do to help the world in order that in a very few years, the whole world may know of the Pathfinders of America. Some of the ways that the Pathfinders have helped to make the pupils of our school better are:

Boys and girls don't skip school so much; there are less tardy marks and absences; more boys and girls are willing to take the blame themselves for their own mistakes. If we learn early in life that we must pay a price, ourselves, we do not choose to do some things so easily.

Some boys in our school broke up a gang of boys who were teaching smaller boys to smoke and steal. Some boys used to steal small objects; then worry about them. They soon found out that it doesn't pay. Before doing a thing they think of the consequences.

When we see, think or hear of the word "Pathfinder," it should not seem just a word of little meaning. It is a word that has a great meaning. Every person here should be glad that they have had such a good chance to join the Pathfinders. The word "Pathfinder" should never fade from the heart of a true Pathfinder.

Do you not think the work of the Pathfinders is worth while?

Raymond Bader, 13 years of age, Greenfield Park School, Junior Council No. 3

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Pathfinders,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It was, indeed, a pleasure to be able to look forward to such a splendid banquet, and the Council to which I belong also looked forward to it with great interest.

It is not the banquet alone that makes us so happy—it is the fact that we are to be graduated from the Junior Council, and will receive a certificate presently. I think a Pathfinder Council is a great help to any school that has the organization. In the first place, it helps to reduce petty crimes around the building. Many boys who used to steal small articles are just waking up to the fact that they are building their bodies and minds for future years of usefulness, or uselessness, whichever they, themselves, decide.

In the second place, it helps to build characters, so that boys and girls will make good American citizens, and will thereby be of service to mankind.

We all like the lessons, and we know that other children like them by the letters they write, and by the speeches they give concerning the work in their particular school. These reports help other schools to organize Councils.

When I first heard of the Pathfinder Organization I thought it was an organization like the "Boy Scouts of America," but I have found out that it is not. It is of far greater importance than the "Boy Scouts."

The Pathfinders are doing great work in the prisons. When the convicts get out they are reminded of the Pathfinders' work, and lessons, and thereby get a new start in the world.

The boys and girls who take the course will not be liable to get into prison. If the convicts as boys and girls had taken the Pathfinder course, they would not be where they are now. Good habits are generally a result of training; bad habits are a result of no training at all, as no one plans to be bad. Therefore, the Pathfinders do not generally have bad habits because they have had training.

Phyllis Rossbach, 14 years of age, Hancock School, Junior Council No. 4

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Pathfinders,
and Friends:

It is a great pleasure to me to be one of the pupils chosen from the Hancock School to make a speech here tonight, before all the graduating Pathfinders of this city, who assemble here on one of the greatest days of our lives.

As I stand on this platform and look down on you, I wonder how this organization has grown so rapidly.

The purpose of this organization is to have us grow up to be worth while men and women, and I am sure for this reason that we are all anxious to continue our membership in the Pathfinder Organization through high school.

You may hear a person who is a loafer, and spends his time at gambling places say, "Why didn't some one teach me the 'Laws of Life' when I was younger? Then I might have amounted to something worth while."

I hope we shall not say this when we grow up, but I presume that the day will come when we shall look back and say to ourselves, with gratitude, "I remember the Pathfinder Club that we used to belong to, and good Mr. Wright who taught us the 'Laws of Life.' He was the one that taught us the worth-while lessons."

Theodore Kerles, 15 years of age, Hancock School, Junior Council No. 4

Fellow Pathfinders and Friends:

It is a great honor for me to speak to you this evening when all the graduating Pathfinders of the city are assembled to celebrate one of the greatest days in their lives.

As I stand on this platform I recall a day last fall when a gentleman, accompanied by two boys, came to our room at the Hancock School. This gentleman, as you probably have guessed, was Mr. Wright, and the two boys were representatives from the already organized "Pathfinder Councils."

On that fall day the Pathfinder Organization took root at the Hancock School, to be the future Junior Council No. 4.

From that day on many great things have come into my mind, through the help and work of the Pathfinders. In what manner this was done, you know, by the help of those precious lessons which I am sure have helped nearly every person in this auditorium. More than that, they have helped nearly every person in our country who has taken up the work of the Pathfinders.

We know that a Pathfinder is a person who finds the path, or gets the way.

In the history of our country, and of other countries, we have known of

great "Pathfinders." Great explorers to the Rockies have been called the Pathfinders to the Great Rockies; explorers to the poles have also been called Pathfinders, and then we were Columbus, Lincoln, Washington?

As you see we have great Pathfinders to great places, but I have not mentioned Pathfinders who are greater than any of these, and their paths lead to a greater place.

Now let us see who are these Pathfinders, and where do their paths lead?

These two questions are easily answered. These Pathfinders are we—you and I—and that path leads to ourselves—just to ourselves, but when it reaches the end of the trail, and we have gained, we shall be happy for the rest of our lives.

So let us see that in the coming years when we go out into the world that we shall reach that point in our path so that we may be a help to our country, and honor to our flag.

The third speaker on the program from the Hancock School, Kendall Lamblough, was sick, and unable to deliver his address.

PATHFINDER TOAST

By J. F. WRIGHT

(To be offered with pure water only)

This pure food and drink is Nature's pledge of loyalty to our health, success and happiness, and will so manifest it in our lives, if we eat and drink with cheerful hearts; so let us eat and drink.

PATHFINDER GUIDE POST

By J. F. WRIGHT

Man is the CREATOR of his own environment. He becomes the CREATURE of the environment created by the power to which he has surrendered his creatorship; for instance: With the first drink of liquor, he exposes his creatorship to an attack, weakens his defense with each drink he takes after that, and when he has acquired the habit and love for liquor, he has then surrendered his creatorship to liquor and becomes the CREATURE of its environment, as he will be found in company with people of like tastes, where liquor can be obtained, and will do all that liquor demands of him when it is working in his system.

Honorable Arthur J. Tuttle

UNITED STATES COURT CHAMBERS
Detroit, Michigan

Arthur J. Tuttle, District Judge
Eastern District of Michigan

Mr. J. F. Wright, Executive Secretary, June 21, 1923
Pathfinders of America, Detroit, Michigan.

My Dear Mr. Wright:

Your letter of June 20th just received.

You ask me as to my thoughts and sentiments when being introduced by the eleven year old chairman of the Pathfinder graduating exercises, at the Cass

great "Pathfinders." Great explorers to the Rockies have been called the Pathfinders to the Great Rockies; explorers to the poles have also been called Pathfinders, and then we were Columbus, Lincoln, Washington?

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Pathfinders of America, Detroit, Michigan.

My Dear Mr. Wright:

Your letter of June 20th just received.

You ask me as to my thoughts and sentiments when being introduced by the eleven year old chairman of the Pathfinder graduating exercises, at the Cass

Technical High School, on the evening of June 8th. I will do the best I can to answer your question.

This is not unlike, in some respects, a question which is asked almost every day of witnesses who are in Court. Sometimes the question is asked as to why a witness did a particular thing, and sometimes it is asked directly as to what he was thinking about, in order to explain why he did a certain thing, or failed to do a certain thing at a particular time. I have listened to very many questions and answers of this kind, and I have reached the conclusion that the answer is usually given rather from an analysis of the situation, and what the witness thinks was undoubtedly going through his mind than from a test of memory as to the particular things which coursed through his brain. I will, however, do the best I can to recall the thoughts and sentiments which I had in mind at that time, rather than to pursue the usual course and think out what I ought to have had in mind.

1. I am sure that the first and outstanding thought in my mind was admiration for this boy. He was so outstanding, upstanding and fearless in every word and act, that I could not help but compare him favorably with distinguished presiding officers whose conduct I have had the pleasure of observing. In order that you may be sure that I am actually using my memory, I here repeat and recall that at one time during the exercises, I whispered to my good friend, John Trix, who sat on my left and said relative to this presiding officer, "Our distinguished and experienced friend, William Livingstone, who has probably sat at the head of more banquet tables than any other man in Detroit, would not appear more at ease than this lad." Still searching my memory and not my imagination, I recall that early in the exercises Mr. Trix mentioned the fact that the presiding officer was never repeating himself, but that each one of his numerous introductions was made by the use of a new sentence with new words in it. From this time on I observed that particular thing, and noted with increased admiration, not only his ease of manner, his pleasant voice, and well chosen words, but the fact that there was originality in every introduction, and no repetition of what had previously been said. For these reasons, and many not mentioned, I feel no hesitancy in saying to you that my admiration for the young man stood out beyond all the other thoughts in my mind.

2. The thoughts which followed on the heels of the former, and was in a degree induced by it, represents a matter of much more importance than that which for the particular time got a front seat in my thinking machine. This second and more important thought was one of appreciation for the work you are doing, and which is discovering ability of this kind possessed by the presiding officer; and having discovered these qualities of heart and mind, you are developing them in a way which not only tends to crowd out the baser things of life, just as the well-kept garden crowds out the weeds, but it goes much further than the individual, and you take these good qualities of heart and mind and you direct them out into the world so that they may produce results, not only within the particular individual, but in and with all those individuals who come in contact with this dynamic, good producing, human machine.

You are eotitled to an immense amount of credit. I know that this thought was also in my mind during the entire evening, and I know that it was in the minds of every perseo attending the exercises. I don't think I talked with a single individual who did oot meotion to me their appreciation of the valuable service you are renderiog. I have placed this second on the list of things which were coursing through my mind, because I am sure it followed as a result of the sentiment of admiration for those who took part. Observe that it was by seeing and admiring what you had produced that I came secondly to the real meat of the psychology, aod appreciated what you were doiog.

I could go on oow in my train of reasoning, and do as the witness usually does, and search my logic and discover things which I ought to have thought about, and perhaps did think about. I have confined myself to my memory io answering your question, and I know now that these thoughts and sentiments above-meotioned were in my miod, aod active at the time of my introduction.

If I should proceed and consider what ought to have been in my miod, aod probably was I would mention pride at being introduced on such an occasion, and by such a chairman. But the truth is, I do not find it in my memory, I fiod it only io my logic. The truth is I was never so unconscious of myself, and what I was goiog to do, and what I was going to say, at the time of being presenoted to ao audience, as I was on this occasion. The honest truth is, I was thinking about the chairmao, these childreo, and the work you were doing, and the thoughts and sentiments mentioned above under paragraphs number one and number two are the things which I find recorded on the memory disc of my brain.

With best wishes for you, aod all your children, I am,

Very siocerely yours,

(Signed) ARTHUR J. TUTTLE

OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD'S WORK

To reach all nationalities, color, tongues and creeds in our open forum classes in prisons, we soon discovered that we must neither quote the Bible or permit the discussion of religious subjects from any theological point of view. Only with this policy strictly adhered to, are we permitted to operate in the public schools, or could we get such universal results, as we find our lessons are being used in Catholic schools and Protestant Sunday schools, of various denominations.

In addition to our educational work with men and women in prisons, we also act as the shock absorber for the families of men when first arrested and while they are in prison, as well as helping them to find work after they are released. We also act as first friend for many United States federal prisoners.

As one prison official said: our work was splendid for prisoners AFTER they were released from prison, but not while they were inside, and a state parole officer said it was just what the men needed while in prison but not good for them outside, we concluded to find out, if possible, just where we belonged in the World's Work. We wrote R. M. Wenley, professor of philosophy at the University of Michigan, sending him copies of our lessons and other information, and asked him to please tell us where we belonged. His letter follows:

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Ann Arbor, Michigan

My Dear Mr. Wright:

After considering all carefully, it is perfectly clear to me where the Pathfinders belong. It is not a Religious Association, and cannot be classed in that category. But it belongs with such societies as concern themselves with moral education.

I do not see how state officials whom you mention, can fail to see this. Of course, you must necessarily combat in them the assumption—common to Americans descending from Puritan days—that morality is essentially anti-religious unless it is connected with a specific organization.

I should forecast that you will find it quite difficult to get over this widespread view. It is held unconsciously, of course, and this makes it all the more difficult to deal with.

Yours truly,

(Signed) R. M. WENLEY, *Professor of Philosophy*

Wanting to be fair to all sides and have the opinion of more than one expert, we sent the same request and material to Dr. C. M. Sharpe, Dean of the Detroit School of Religion, and we give you his reply.

Philip H. Gray, Pres. — Benj. D. Edwards, Ph. B. Chancellor
A. G. Studer, M. D., Gen. Sec'y. — C. M. Sharpe, A. M., Ph. D., Dean

DETROIT SCHOOL OF RELIGION
Detroit Institute of Technology

My Dear Mr. Wright:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 11th, with enclosures, which I have read with great interest. From the material, and other pamphlets you have sent me from time to time, I have formed a high opinion of the work you are seeking to do, and according to testimony of those who have observed it, actually doing.

I can easily see that from the very fact that you are trying to avoid classification in such wise as to imperil your work, you would incur the danger of being misunderstood and misinterpreted. That is the penalty that all must pay who occupy mediating positions amid the partisan tendencies of our times, as indeed all times.

According to my understanding of the situation, you are really teaching religion, in that you are dealing with fundamental laws of life, but you are not teaching dogmatic religion, and in order to guard yourself from the appearaoce of doing so, you are denying yourself the use of a very valuable accessory to your purpose, namely, the Bible. I conceive it possible to use the Bible in a way which is oot open to criticism in any fair sense (from any source); namely, as a literature of life, quite apart from its dogmatic uses as a buttress of ecclesiastical authority.

As for stating just where you "belong in the World's work," I really feel myself incompetent to pronounce. It seems to me that you have a place that is all your own, so far as any knowledge I have of anything comparable to your program extends, and instead of classifying you, I would rather bid you God-speed and good luck.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) C. M. SHARPE

Office of the

Sheriff of Wayne County

Detroit, Michigan

GEORGE A. WALTERS
SHERIFF

Mr. J. F. Wright, Executive Secretary,
Pathfinders' of America,
404 Hodges Building,
Detroit, Michigan.

My dear Mr. Wright:

Please accept my sincere thanks for your letter and for the copy of Judge Tuttle's letter, also for extracts of statements made by school children relative to Pathfinder lessons. I have read Judge Tuttle's letter with a great deal of interest and I am very glad indeed that you sent me a copy of it together with the statements made by the children themselves. Judge Tuttle's letter confirms the information I previously had to the effect that the work which you are doing in connection with the Pathfinders' of America is of great value in this community.

I note among the list of officers a couple in California with whom I am quite well acquainted, namely August Vollmer, Berkeley and Will Comfort, Los Angeles. I compliment you on the personnel of your officers in Michigan.

I want you to know that I deem it a privilege and a pleasure to co-operate with you and am grateful for the helpful work you are doing among the inmates of the Wayne County Jail.

If at any time I can be of assistance I will appreciate it if you will kindly advise.

Very sincerely,

GEO. A. WALTERS

Sheriff.

OTHER FIELDS IN WHICH WE LABOR

The following letter is evidence of another field of labor where the philosophy of the Pathfinders of America has been tried out with eminent satisfaction:

Educational Section of The American Bankers Association
DETROIT CHAPTER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BANKING
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Wright: April 3, 1922.

Wishing to call attention to the masterful manner in which our Character Analysis Class was handled by you at the Central High School this year, and wishing to compliment you upon the efforts put forth to develop and improve Chapter students, I cannot find words that adequately convey the degree of appreciation felt by the Board of Governors, and the Executive Officers of the Chapter, for your great accomplishment.

We are very much impressed with the teachings of this course, and know that time will show the biggest results of any class that we have conducted during the past season.

I wish you every success in your noble undertaking.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) F. C. THOMAS, *President*

HOW NAMED AND FINANCED

The early Egyptians personified the man in the moon and called him THOTH—the Pathfinder or the awakener of sleeping minds. From this legend the Pathfinders of America take their aim and name.

For the first three years in the history of the organization, J. F. Wright, the founder and leader, donated his time and the postage; then broad-minded men and women contributed to the expense fund.

During the past four years, the Community Fund of Detroit has contributed to the expense of the work with Detroit prisoners and their families, but not to the educational work in the public schools, claiming that phase of the work was religious, but have given the Pathfinders permission to solicit funds to maintain this department, which, like our public school system, requires trained, paid, workers—not volunteers.

If "An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure," then, every dollar spent on building character in children is worth more than $32,000 spent in maintaining jails, reform schools and prisons.

One generous, broad-minded citizen of Detroit has made the publication of this booklet possible, in the hope that it might reveal to thinking men and women of means, "THE IMPELLING NEED OF THE HOUR," and prove to their satisfaction that Constructive Education—not war or legislation—is the only hope of Civilization or Christianization.

Each council is an independent organization, but working in harmony and under the direction of the parent Council in Detroit, with no financial responsibility to each other.

With this phenomenal growth, is it unfair to assume that our future capacity will be limited only by our financial ability to obtain competent help, which can no more be done with volunteer workers than our public schools can be maintained by that method.

We are now arranging a course to take the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh grades and graduate them when they have completed the Eighth grade.

Any contribution made payable to the Pathfinders of America and sent to The Bank of Detroit, will aid in the battle for humanity.

PATHFINDERS IN CLEVELAND

—By Pachrach

Mrs. Jessie Frances Lytle, President, Cleveland Council, Pathfinders of America

Late in the Fall of 1921 there came to Cleveland a lady who had been interested in the Pathfinder work in Detroit—Mrs. Jessie A. Foulk.

Mrs. Foulk, with her characteristic energy, became associated with various activities and societies, and very soon was describing the work of the Pathfinders of Detroit. Many were interested, and a meeting was held in Keith's Hippodrome, in May, 1922. Mr. J. F. Wright, Detroit Leader, was present; gave a rousing talk, and a Council was organized.

Mrs. Jessie Frances Lytle was elected President; Arthur H. Day, Vice-President; Mrs. Foulk, Secretary, and Mrs. Jessie L. Chapman, Treasurer.

These persons are still in office, excepting Mrs. Foulk, who later went into other activities, and her place of Secretary was taken by Miss Nina Parshall, Corresponding Secretary, and Mrs. Clara Mitchell, Recording Secretary. Mrs. Eileen Searles is now Assistant Treasurer.

Meetings were held at No. 540 Leader-News Building, in the offices of the law firm of Day, Isaacs and Corrigan, Mr. Arthur H. Day being Vice-President of the Council.

These gentlemen from the beginning have been firm friends and staunch supporters of the Pathfinders, helping in various and substantial ways.

The work has progressed along many lines, for the past year and a half. The President, Mrs. Lytle, has given at least three talks a week before the various clubs and societies of the city; during the winter often giving two a day. She has talked at church suppers, Sunday School classes, Ladies' Aid Societies, Mothers' Clubs, Parent-Teachers Clubs, Literary Societies, Child Conservation Leagues, Card Clubs, Lawn Fetes, Conventions, Banquets, Club Federations, to say nothing of the weekly talks in the County Jail, Florence Crittenden Mission, and other places.

At the present time Miss Nina Parshall is conducting talks to girls on parole, who report to Mrs. Callahan, and her Assistants weekly.

Miss Parshall is also going to the Juvenile Detention Home, where Judge Adams sends the children charged with offenses of various kinds. This home is well conducted, and a blessing to some of these little chaps, who otherwise would be placed in the jail with older men and women.

Judge Adams and Mr. Thomas Lewis, his Chief Probation Officer, and many others connected with the Juvenile Court, have been most kind to us, giving us hearty endorsement and co-operation (am enclosing letter from Judge Adams), and so we have carried on here in Cleveland, planting the good strong seeds of right thinking in the minds of all those we have been fortunate enough to contact.

As the narcotic menace is especially strong in Cleveland, and practically nothing is being done to meet it, excepting to put victims in jail, send them to a prison or reformatory, or sometimes, after a long delay, permit them to enter the city hospital, the Pathfinders *are preparing to help this situation by opening a home for such*, where the best medical treatment will be given, combined with their wonderful character building, will strengthening, and soul uplifting instruction. Their plan is to cure the Outside Man, and the Inner Man, at the same time, healing the body and helping the patient to gain a real victory through the awakening of the sub-conscious mind. They are enabled to do this only through the generosity of Cleveland's best citizens, who are giving generously, that men and women may thus be helped in a real and humane way. The Pathfinders are only able, at this time, to take care of women, but as soon as the work is more widely known, and public sentiment is thoroughly awakened, a fine big house will be opened for men as well. The President, Mrs. Lytle, No. 689 East 120th Street, will gladly receive any help offered, whether it be a home, furniture, or money, for to make this project a true success they must have an abundance of all. Meetings are held twice a month at No. 518 Superior Building, and all are invited.

JUVENILE COURT
COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA
Cleveland, Ohio

George S. Adams
Judge

T. L. Lewis,
Chief Probation Officer
May 3, 1923

To Whom It May Concern:

I heartily endorse the work of the Pathfinders of America, in our Jails and Penal Institutions, and am well pleased with the co-operation the Juvenile Court receives from the Cleveland Council of the Pathfinders.

Yours truly,

(Signed) GEORGE S. ADAMS, *Judge of Juvenile Court*

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Yours truly,

(Signed) GEORGE S. ADAMS, *Judge of Juvenile Court*

NEW YORK COUNCIL PATHFINDERS OF AMERICA

—International News.

Col. Neta J. Boardman, Executive Secretary, New York Council, Pathfinders of America, listening to one of her pupils.

Recognizing the great need of activity in the New York Council of Pathfinders that had been organized by loyal men and women who were unable to give the work the time conditions demanded, Mr. Wright visited New York City the last of March, in search of an executive officer to take charge of the work there.

In discussing the situation with Mr. Charles L. Robinson, Editor-in-Chief of "The Justice Magazine," Mr. Robinson said, "Mr. Wright, there is one woman in New York City that can fill the bill if you can get her; her name is Col. Neta J. Boardman, the first woman in America to be authorized to wear the uniform of an American soldier, by the recommendation of General Leonard Wood as the result of Mrs. Boardman's organizing the American Woman's Defense League, 600 strong, who did such valiant service in meeting transports any hour of the day or night, and looking out for the care of wounded soldiers when sent home."

At the suggestion of the officers of the Defense League, Mrs. Boardman resigned and organized the national woman's army, and as its commanding officer, did her best work. Sworn in as Colonel of the Reserves, she was recognized by Army and civilians alike. Under her direction, the first Police Reserve Ambulance was put on the streets of New York City.

Mr. Wright at once agreed with Mr. Robinson, who arranged a meeting and introduction at his office, where Col. Neta J. Boardman first heard of the Pathfinders of America, and with her clear vision at once recognized the great need and possibilities of such an organization and agreed to take the office. A meeting of the New York Council of Pathfinders was called two days later and Col. Neta J. Boardman unanimously elected as its Executive Secretary. That the Pathfinders will succeed and are to be congratulated in securing such a leader, is evidenced by the work Col. Boardman has accomplished in less than four months' time.

Col. Boardman's first move was to organize an Advisory Board. The President of the Board, Mrs. William Cumming Story, Hon. President-General D. A. R., is nationally known as a leader among women's societies, and loved by them for her graciousness in presiding, yet withal strict as a parliamentarian in her rulings.

Mrs. William F. Hessel, Vice-President, is an active club woman, for many years identified with the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs and as chairman of entertainment for the Society of Illinois Women, is noted for her ability to always provide an excellent program.

Mrs. Charles Augustine Robinson, Honorable Member of Antilles Post 146, known officially and affectionately as "The Flag Lady" and whose slogan "Under the flag I am at your service," has made her most popular.

Mrs. William L. Sands, is a leader among club women. The genial President of the Daughters of Alabama, and member of many other clubs in New York.

Mrs. Otto Hahn, chairman of Education of the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs, is chairman of education for the New York Council of Pathfinders, and is already in the harness as will be seen by the picture in which Mrs. Hahn is instructing the Juniors.

Mrs. Philip Simon is active in so many women's clubs that it is difficult to say which she does the most for. A member of National Child Labor Com., American World War Relief Association of New York, and last but not least, President of "The Foster Mothers Association of America."

Miss Ida May Chadwick, a prominent musical-comedy star in the theatrical profession. Miss Chadwick was the star in "Some Time."

Miss J. K. Cunningham, a business woman and treasurer for a large corporation in New York City, is Assistant Treasurer of the Pathfinders Council in New York.

NEW YORK COUNCIL PATHFINDERS OF AMERICA

—International News.

Col. Neta J. Boardman, Executive Secretary, New York Council, Pathfinders of America. Listening to one of her pupils.

Recognizing the great need of activity in the New York Council of Pathfinders that had been organized by loyal men and women who were unable to give the work the time conditions demanded, Mr. Wright visited New York City the last of March, in search of an executive officer to take charge of the work there.

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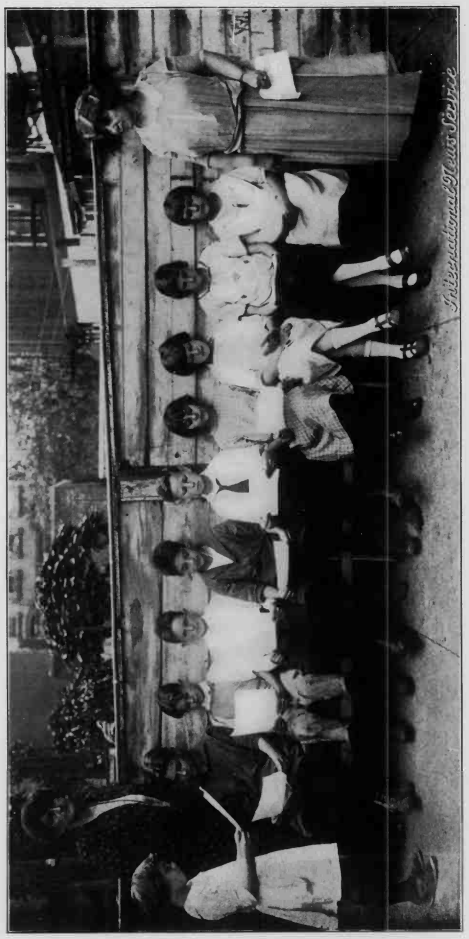


The lady standing on the reader's left is Mrs. Elizabeth W. Muller, through whose generosity in donating the use of her home and grounds, has the start in the Junior Council work in New York City been possible. The lady standing at the reader's right is Mrs. Otto Hahn, chairman of the Education Committee, for the New York Council of Pathfinders of America, as well as the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Hahn is also an Instructor in the Junior Council work, and this is her class reciting.

On July 16th, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Muller, a prominent political worker who ran for the office of Assemblyman of Sullivan County, joined the Advisory Board of the Pathfinders and was appointed Chairman of Ways and Means. She at once realized that to be a Pathfinder meant active work, and at the suggestion of Colonel Boardman, contributed the use of two floors—parlor and basement—in a home she owned, and two back yards for playgrounds, for a Junior Council of Pathfinders in which they were to study, "Human Engineering" or Character Building as a Science.

July 23rd, a Junior Pathfinder school was opened at No. 4-6-8 Beekman Place, near 50th Street with 35 boys and girls and each day adds new members. Mrs. William Cumming Story and Mrs. Otto Hahn were present at the opening, and the Juniors are so enthused over their Club and its advantages, they are saving their pennies to buy a Junior Club Home, and have asked Colonel Boardman to help them.

With such an array of executive workers, and such a grand start with the Juniors, New York City Council of Pathfinders of America is bound to grow and make itself known as a constructive factor in the civic life of the city.

PATHFINDER GUIDE POST

SELECTED

"Help thy brother to row his boat across the river, and lo, and behold, you yourself have reached the other shore."

WORK IN CALIFORNIA

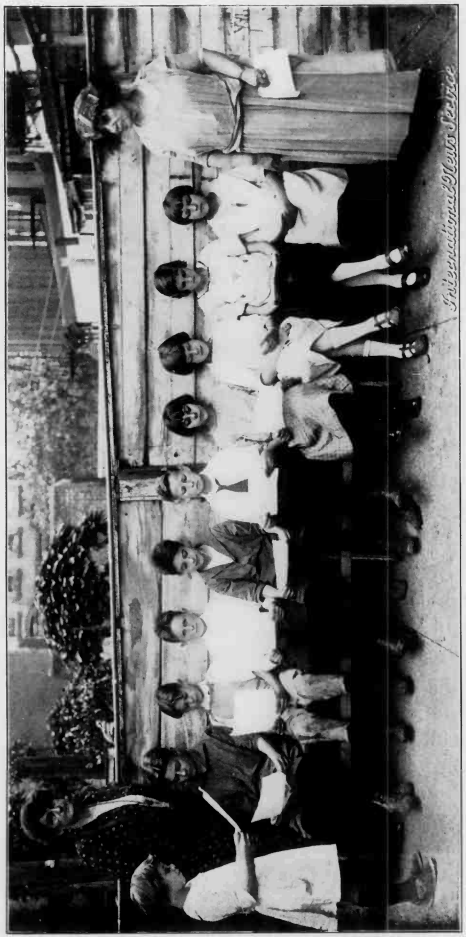
Mrs. Mable Dorn Hirst, Attorney, 812 Phelan Bldg., San Francisco, Cal., one of our Honorary Vice-Presidents and Pacific Coast Executive Secretaries, has been a great aid to the cause in her council and advice to Inside Council No. 2. As an Attorney, she has devoted many hours to straighten out problems that might have ended seriously, and is a true Pathfinder in every sense of the word.

In an address before the Down Town Association at the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, the newspapers quote James A. Johnston, Warden of San Quentin prison, as follows: "In San Quentin prison, there are 2392 men. In prison highway camps there are 275. Of this number, 1,400 are under 30 years of age, 921 and under 25, and close to 300 under 21. Prevention of crime is easier than the cure and less costly."

PATHFINDER GUIDE POST

By J. F. WRIGHT

I may inherit my father's library, but not his knowledge and practice of law or medicine. So also have I inherited the potentialities of vice and virtue, but must determine for myself, which I shall cultivate as the standard of my life.



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Just as sure as the heat and light of the sun releases wings, that the caterpillar may rise from the bondage of a crawling existence, to a butterfly life with the birds and flowers, so will the knowledge and application of practical human constructive psychology, together with Universal law of Cause and Effect—or compensation—as taught by the Pathfinders of America in Human Engineering, release man from the bondage of ignorance, hate, anger, fear, superstition, jealousy and revenge, to a life of faith, hope, courage and joyous service to mankind.

PRESS OF A. W. BROOKES
DETROIT.

MSH #22891

END OF
TITLE